

**Question for written answer E-003848/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Closure of the Italian branch of Cerence and protection of European professionals working in artificial intelligence

Cerence, a multinational company founded in 2019 as an offshoot of Nuance Communications, announced on 2 September 2025 a restructuring plan costing USD 7.2-7.9 million that has nothing to do with any financial troubles, the business having recorded five consecutive quarters of positive earnings.

At the same time, the closure of the Turin office was announced, resulting in 53 collective redundancies for highly skilled workers with strategic skills for European AI.

The company intends to concentrate research activities in Germany and relocate standardised research activities to India and China, which will lead to the closure of a centre of excellence in historical CSELT-Loquendo and create a risk of dispersion of human capital.

The EU has recognised artificial intelligence as a critical technology, providing tools such as the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGAF), the European Works Council Directive, and the AI Act.

In the light of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to prevent multinationals from closing EU offices and laying off skilled workers when no financial troubles have been documented, and does it consider it appropriate to bolster European works councils by granting them real, binding consultation powers?
2. Will it propose a European mechanism designed to counter unjustified relocations and shape EU incentives and funds in this connection?
3. What instruments will it activate, including through the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund and Horizon Europe, to support the relocation of workers and preserve strategic skills in artificial intelligence?

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