Question for written answer E-001663/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Eric Andrieu (S&D)

Subject: Merger of Getrag Ford Transmissions and Magna Powertrain

Getrag Ford Transmissions (GFT) in Blanquefort (France), which specialises in the production of manual transmission boxes for the automotive market, has recently been the subject of a concentration operation, with Magna Powertrain acquiring sole control.

Despite concerns expressed by trade unions and local elected representatives about the future of the site, DG Competition, acting strictly within its mandate, concluded that the merger would not lead to a significant loss of competition and authorised the operation.

It is evident from the file which Magna Powertrain submitted to the Commission that by 2026 the GFT site will only be making manual transmission boxes.

While the market is shifting firmly towards automatic transmission for electric and hybrid vehicles, there is a great risk that GFT's operations will be scaled back, to the point where its sustainability, and the jobs it provides, will be at risk.

Can the Commission state whether the approval of the concentration was conditional solely on the production of manual transmission boxes in the coming years, or whether Magna Powertrain is at liberty to switch production to automatic boxes straight away?