

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001905/25
to the Commission
João Oliveira (The Left)
(13 May 2025)**

Subject: The need to protect production at SGL Carbon (formerly FISIFE) and jobs

It has come to light that SGL Carbon intends to close its production site in Lavradio, municipality of Barreiro, district of Setúbal.

In 2012, German-based multinational SGL Carbon acquired FISIFE S. A., a factory with a long history of producing acrylic fibres. In the meantime, it has switched its focus to producing carbon fibres.

In a press release, the company says the process will take place in phases: production is set to end in June 2025 and the site will be fully closed by 2026.

The business currently employs around 250 people; 190 are to be made redundant in the first phase, with around 60 remaining until 2026.

The job losses will have a deeply negative impact on the lives of the workers concerned and their families, and the surrounding areas.

The loss of a productive activity and jobs is a hard blow to a municipality and region that have been affected by dwindling productive capacity for decades.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission know if SGL Carbon has received any EU funding? If it has, what funding has it received?
2. Is the Commission aware of similar situations at any of the company's other European production sites?

Submitted: 13.5.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(30 June 2025)**

SGL Composites S.A., the Portuguese unit of SGL Carbon located in Lavradio, received a total of EUR 624 514, from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for two projects, through the Lisbon operational programme 2014-2020.

In addition, the company received EUR 929 520 ⁽¹⁾, as of May 2025, for the 'investment project for the decarbonisation of industrial activity and promotion of energy efficiency levels' under the Portuguese Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP).

According to the data published by the Portuguese authorities, both ERDF projects were finalised by end-2019, so there is no likely impact on the durability ⁽²⁾ of these operations.

Following the SGL Carbon announcement of a restructuring of its carbon fibres business unit, justified by ongoing financial losses, in February 2025 ⁽³⁾, the company announced in May 2025 the closure of its production site in Lavradio, Portugal ⁽⁴⁾. No further information regarding other possible closures has been released.

The Commission promotes corporate social responsibility in the EU and encourages enterprises to adhere to international principles and to follow socially responsible management when restructuring.

However, it does not intervene in the management decisions of private companies. In the event of dismissals, workers may benefit from European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) support in their search for new employment under the conditions set out by the Member State's programmes.

Additionally, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for displaced workers (EGF) can assist dismissed workers to help them to find new employment in the face of an unexpected major restructuring event.

⁽¹⁾ The RRF is a performance-based instrument. This figure is according to the Mais Transparência website of the Portuguese authorities: <https://transparencia.gov.pt/pt/fundos-europeus/pr/beneficiarios-projetos/projeto/02/C11-i01/2022.PC658685467-00471800/>.

⁽²⁾ As provided by the article 71 of Regulation 1303/2013.

⁽³⁾ https://www.sglcarbon.com/en/newsroom/news/press-report/adhoc-notification-sgl-carbon-decides-to-restructure-its-carbon-fibers-business-unit-presentation-of-preliminary-figures-for-fiscal-year-2024/?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.sglcarbon.com/en/newsroom/news/press-report/closure-of-sgl-carbon-production-site-in-lavradio/>.
