

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003763/25
to the Commission
Anthony Smith (The Left)
(26 September 2025)**

Subject: Mass layoffs and conditionality of public aid

The clothing sector, much like the trade sector as a whole, is facing a mounting crisis. France, for example, has seen 37 000 jobs cut since 2012 — of which 4 000 were lost in 2023 alone — across a large number of small and large retailers.

While the loss of purchasing power caused by the French President's economic policy and affecting mainly household spending is one factor, the massive rise in online and second-hand shopping is another. However, a number of retailers who have laid off staff, such as Camaïeu, have received government support.

In light of this, does the Commission intend to:

1. Require Member States to ensure the transparency and traceability of state and EU aid?
2. Ensure that public aid is conditional on the company both not laying off employees and strictly complying with legislation on occupational health and safety standards?

Submitted: 26.9.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission
(17 November 2025)**

Under existing EU law, Member States must ensure transparency in the granting of state aid, including measures co-financed by EU funds.

This includes the publication, on a comprehensive state aid transparency website, of detailed information on individual aid awards exceeding the relevant thresholds established in the applicable Guidelines and Regulations.

The Commission has reinforced these requirements through the Transparency Award Module, which provides Member States with a common platform for uploading aid award data.

As from 2026, the transparency obligation will extend to *de minimis* aid pursuant to Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831, and the Commission's new e-Aid Register will provide Member States with a shared platform to record the aid granted.

Transparency of EU funds is ensured through the Financial Transparency System, established under Article 38 of the Financial Regulation.

This platform publishes information on beneficiaries of EU funds managed directly by the Commission or indirectly through other entities, including the amounts awarded and their purpose.

Where public support qualifies as state aid, the Treaty sets out conditions for its compatibility with the internal market. Those conditions are further specified in the relevant secondary legislation and Commission guidelines to make sure that the relevant objective is achieved without undue distortion of competition and intra-EU trade.

These conditions may involve also creation and maintenance of jobs (e.g. for regional aid or investment aid under the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework ⁽¹⁾).

Even when the state aid rules do not involve any such requirements, the Member States may make their granting of aid subject to additional conditions.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C, C/2025/3602, 4.7.2025.