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Italian Battipaglia plant outsourcing project: Alcatel Lucent ignores its social responsibility!

Italian trade unions have been informed of an outsourcing or closure project of the manufacturing part of Battipaglia plant (Campania region, Italy).

Battipaglia plant currently employs more than 200 Alcatel Lucent employees and other 150-180 temporary workers for R & D and manufacturing in the field of optical transmission.

EWC is opposed to outsourcing or closure of the manufacturing Battipaglia site for the following reasons:

- Alcatel Lucent will decrease in the next year the manufacturing activity of this plant by transferring part of the production to low cost countries of which Romania and China.
- Alcatel has received last years very substantial public aids for the Battipaglia site for innovation and process technology.
- The medium-term evolution of the plants outsources by Alcatel in the past has shown that these operations are almost always catastrophic for employment and often end in site closures.

In this context, a project of outsourcing or closing is unacceptable.

Alcatel Lucent responsibility is fully committed vis-à-vis employees and contractors of Battipaglia plant, vis-à-vis the government and vis-à-vis all Italian and European taxpayers who participated to finance the activities of this site.

Public aids received by Alcatel and Alcatel Lucent for the Battipaglia site:

FEDER (European Regional Development Fund): € 5 million over the period 1994-2006 to modernize the Battipaglia plant - see attached extract from the official journal of the European Union C84E.

Direct European funding: € 2.9 million for projects Moicane and Smacks.

Italian Ministry of Research: € 23 million since 2000 for various R & D projects on Battipaglia site.

History of few plants outsourced by Alcatel:

- Cherbourg -France: sold in 2002 to Sanmina. 300 workers. Closed in 2008.
- Laval - France : sold in 2001 to Flextronics. 830 workers. Closed in 2005.
- Brest - France: sold in 2002 to Jabil. 900 workers. After many lay off, it remains only 160 workers today. The future of this factory is compromised.
- Maddaloni -Italy: sold in 2003 to Teleinvest. 140 workers. It remains a very reduced activity for 30-40 workers. Most of employees have been laid off. The future of this factory is compromised.
- Frosinone - Italy: sold in 2003 to CST Net. 150 workers. Closed in 2008.
- Toledo – Spain: sold in 2002 to Sanmina. 400 workers. Closed in 2008.
- Gunzenhausen – Germany : sold in 2002 to Sanmina. 750 workers. After many lay off, it remains less than 150 workers today.

Extract of the EU official journal C84/E :

As regards the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), cofunding for Alcatel was limited to aid intended for modernising Battipaglia. This aid amounts to EUR 3 034 million for the 1994-1999 programming period and to EUR 1 835 million for the period 2000-2006. Aid for the Maddaloni, Frosinone and Reti plants was not cofinanced by the ERDF.