



ECID members meet with Members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

On April 24th, three members of the ECID coordinating committee met at the European Parliament in Strasbourg with a group of MEPs (Members of the European Parliament). The session was co-chaired by Francis Wurtz (GUE/NGL chairman) and Catherine Trautmann (PSE). The mixed group of MEPs who attended included members from France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, Czech Republic, Greece, Denmark and the UK.



The ECID members alerted the European politicians of the process of R&D manpower reduction in Europe and its increase in low cost countries by high technological companies like Alcatel Lucent. If in the past this relocation was done for the purpose of *being in the market and close to the customer*, now that this market presence is achieved it responds to a simple cost reduction plan. To prevent this loss of qualified jobs, the ECID members asked the MEPs to take action and implement an offensive industrial policy for the ICT sector and an increase in R&D investment. The ECID members highlighted the negative impact that this lack of European industry policy has on Europe at a social and economic level, and used the case of Alcatel Lucent to illustrate it. It was clear for everyone present at the meeting that the national level is not enough to face this problem, and that a European approach is needed to save Europe's ICT jobs and create a sector of solid growth.

The MEPs also admitted that the Lisbon agenda objectives were not being met and both ECID members and MEPs agreed that a substantial financial effort was needed in order to achieve them. The MEPs agreed that a European action to increase ICT activities needs a reinforcement of social dialogue rights and the participation of employee representatives. Finally, the ECID members informed the MEPs about the 11 EMF proposals made by the ICT Task force launched by the European Commission in 2006. **The MEPs committed themselves to bring the industrial policy issue to the European Parliament plenary in the near future.**

The ECID will continue to pressure whatever instances are necessary to fight the restructuring plans of Alcatel Lucent. One of the next steps will be for the EMF to request the European Commission to organize a round table with European trade union members.