

PS/JKD/MV

Brussels, 22nd March 2010

Commissioner Joaquín Almunia

DG Competition
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
E-mail: Joquin.almunia@ec.europa.eu

Dear Commissioner Joaquín Almunia,

Re.: Request for urgent meeting on the privatisation of the Croatian shipyards

I would like to request an urgent meeting with you to discuss the critical situation currently facing Croatia's shipyards.

After the first unsuccessful tender for privatisation, the second tender for the privatisation of Croatian shipyards was published in February 2010, and due to close on 19 April 2010. The privatisation process has started in a period of intense economic and financial crisis in the industry making the outcome of the second tender highly uncertain. The Croatian Government has announced the possibility of starting bankruptcy procedures in case of an unsuccessful second privatisation attempt.

The shipbuilding sector has a significant economic and employment role in Croatia. Around 46 000 workers are directly or indirectly employed by the shipbuilding industry, which represents 50% of those employed in the national metal industry. Considering the importance of the sector, there is a strong concern for country's overall employment, social and economic stability, cohesion and development.

As a consequence, I would like to request, together with the President of our Croatian affiliate, Metalworkers' Trade Union of Croatia, this urgent meeting with you or a member of your Cabinet to discuss the situation and its consequences for Croatian workers and economy. Considering the timetable for the privatisation process, I would welcome an opportunity as soon as possible, and before the closing date of the second privatisation tender: 19 April 2010.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Scherrer
EMF General Secretary

Cc:

Commissioner Štefan Füle

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