

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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ORAL QUESTION (O-163/82)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mrs CINCIARI RODANO and Mrs GAIOTTI de BIASE

on behalf of the Committee of Inquiry into the Situation of Women in Europe
to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: Non-compliance with Council Directive 76/207/EEC of
9 February 1976 on equal treatment for men and women
as regards working conditions by the Belgian firm
Bekeart-Cockerill

On 24 November 1982, on economic and technical grounds, the Belgian firm Bekaert-Cockerill terminated the employment contracts of 13 women. This redundancy measure only affected women employees who were not head of household.

What is more, the jobs of four of the women employees dismissed were allocated to men transferred from other sections of the undertaking at a salary increased by 40 francs per hour for the same work.

The Committee on Inquiry, which is specifically instructed in its terms of reference to keep a close watch on the application of the directives on equal pay and equal treatment in the Member States, vigorously protests to the Council against the actions of this company which are in breach of the directive on equal treatment and of the corresponding Belgian law¹.

¹Title V of the Belgian Law of 4 August 1978 on economic flexibility ('réorientation économique') (Moniteur belge, 17 August 1982)

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The Committee of Inquiry would like to know what approach the Council intends to make

- to the Belgian Government requesting it to remind the undertaking concerned that it must observe the law, even in periods of crisis;
- to the governments of the other Member States to prevent similar situations from occurring there.