

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party  
*for the South East of England*

Commissioner Spidla  
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunity  
The European Commission  
200 Rue de la Loi  
B1049  
Brussels  
Belgium

May 19<sup>th</sup> 2009

Dear Commissioner,

It has come to my attention that the UK may be permitting a breach of Directive 98/59/EC in the case of redundancies made by the company Nortel.

Approximately 200 members of staff were made redundant with immediate effect earlier this year, denied all redundancy pay and without the necessary consultation period or negotiations being undertaken. The company has gone into administration and administrators Ernst and Young claim that it was not practicable to carry out consultation with staff representatives.

The UK authorities have confirmed that they will not be taking any action against Nortel for this breach of European law and of the UK's own Trade Unions and Labour Relations Act 1992. I would, therefore, request that the Commission immediately investigate the UK's failure to uphold EU law and look at what action the UK can be forced to take retrospectively in support of the Nortel workers who have been treated so shabbily.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.