BACKGROUND

- The wind turbine manufacturing industry in the EU has been seriously affected by changes in world trade patterns. Amid a dynamic global growth of the sector, Europe's share in total capacity was reduced from 65.5% in 2006 to 47.9% in 2009. Asia is expanding most rapidly, accounting for 40.4% of the new wind capacity in 2009 (in comparison to 18.1% in 2004) while Europe fell back from 70.7% of new capacity in 2004 to only 27.3% in 2009.

- Vestas Group (accounting for 95% of all workers targeted for support under this application) despite the growing income and increased staff, has also been losing its share in the rapidly growing world market for wind energy (from 30% in 2004 down to about 14% at present). These factors resulted in Vestas shifting the focus of its activities and its production plants to the USA and Asia.

- The affected municipality of Ringkøbing-Skjern is located in the eastern part of the Midtjylland region. Ringkøbing-Skjern, with an area of 1,485 km², has a population of 58,803 (2009).

- The impact of the redundancies is expected to be locally significant since notified redundancies of the affected workers represent about 2.5% of the total number of workplaces in the municipality of Ringkøbing-Skjern.