Question for written answer E-002596/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Reported environmental and human rights abuses of EU steel companies in non-EU countries and the need to uphold the CSDDD's objective

As stated by the Commission, 'certain EU companies have [had] adverse human rights and environmental impacts … in their value chains [including] forced labour, exploitation of workers, pollution … or biodiversity loss'. Many of these abuses have been widely documented by NGOs, in the case of ArcelorMittal and Ternium activities in non-EU countries. They are complemented by threats, disappearances – such as that of Antonio Díaz Valencia – and killings of community defenders and environmental activists, land grabbing and negative health impacts. As a recent study suggests, the steel plant in Rio de Janeiro has led to over one thousand deaths.

In the light of both this and the recent Commission proposal for an omnibus on the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), how does the Commission intend to:

1. uphold the application of Article 2 TEU and Article 191 TFEU, as their objectives require the involvement not only of public authorities, but also of companies?

2. prevent fragmentation and provide legal certainty for businesses operating in the internal market?

3. uphold the key provisions of the CSDDD to avoid ending up with an empty shell, and thus to remain consistent with its own declaration that the EU can 'no longer turn a blind eye to what happens down our value chains'?

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