

Question for written answer E-003328/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Commission folly: damaging the steel industry's competitiveness with regulations and then saving it with public aid

The Commission has announced plans to amend the guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms to allow support for the steel sector. Alongside the coal and financial sectors, the steel sector is currently excluded from receiving this aid.

The reason behind this change is geopolitical and related to global competition, especially from China. However, the real problem lies elsewhere: the EU's climate and energy policy, which for many years now has increased production costs in Europe and weakened the competitiveness of strategic industries.

The ETS, high energy prices and additional regulations make European steel more expensive, while Asian competitors benefit from cheaper production and lower environmental standards. The Commission is now proposing to save the industry with taxpayers' money, instead of correcting its own mistakes.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission justify the authorisation of state aid to the steel sector, given that the EU's own regulatory decisions are the main source of the problems?
2. Does the Commission see a contradiction between 'green transition' policy and the need to save industry with public funds?
3. Why is the Commission proposing to subsidise consequences instead of correcting the climate policies that undermine the foundations of the European steel industry?

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