

**Question for written answer E-003514/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Protecting European companies in EU-funded public procurement: enforcing the IPI and combating foreign subsidies

In recent years, an increasing number of non-EU companies, especially Chinese ones, have been participating in European public procurement, including for large projects directly financed by EU funds. These operators, often recipients of non-transparent public subsidies, manage to make bids at artificially low prices, putting European companies at a disadvantage and distorting fair competition. Meanwhile, China does not allow equal access to its public procurement market, creating clear trade asymmetry.

The International Procurement Instrument (IPI) was designed precisely to respond to such situations in which there is a lack of reciprocity. Similarly, the EU Foreign Subsidies Regulation provides tools to investigate and sanction distortive practices. These instruments, however, are in practice still only implemented to a limited extent.

In light of the above:

1. Would the Commission consider the conditions for the activation of the IPI to be met if a formal request were received for an investigation to be launched against China to look into restrictions that are detrimental to European companies?
2. How many cases of bids subsidised by Chinese companies have been investigated under the Foreign Subsidies Regulation since 2023?
3. Will it adopt guidelines to protect European companies in EU-funded procurements, using criteria relating to quality, sustainability and the European supply chain?

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