

**Question for written answer E-003868/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Ensuring fair industrial access to the European Competitiveness Fund

Significant concerns have been raised about the distribution and accessibility of the upcoming European Competitiveness Fund (ECF). Countries such as Romania, Malta, Slovakia, Estonia, Croatia and Poland fear that the fund may be largely channelled towards multinational corporations (MNCs) based in Member States with highly developed industrial bases, leaving economies with fewer large industrial players at a disadvantage. Without a balanced approach, there is a risk of deepening disparities within the EU's industrial landscape.

Malta, for example, underlined the absence of major MNCs in that country and stressed the importance of prefinancing to help companies cope with high capital requirements. Croatia warned that complex administrative procedures would put small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at risk of being excluded, while Romania emphasised the need for fair and simple access to strengthen its own industrial development.

In the light of these concerns, can the Commission clarify what measures it intends to adopt to ensure that the ECF does not disproportionately benefit large MNCs but instead supports geographically balanced industrial development across the EU, paying particular attention to SMEs, which form the backbone of the EU's competitiveness?

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