

Question for written answer E-004057/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Small and medium-sized enterprises in the next multiannual financial framework

The competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Europe is under massive pressure.

The EUROSTAT insolvency index is more than 20 % above the 2019 level, and 66 % higher than in 2021. Additionally, European trade defence measures, tariffs and the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) are imposing a growing burden. For SMEs, even minor increases in raw material costs can make the difference between profitability and bankruptcy.

For example, the planned successor to the safeguard measure on steel, which expires in 2026, risks further aggravating the situation. Compounded by existing trade defence measures and the EU CBAM, it will cause the price level for both steel and stainless steel in the EU to rise even further.

In this context:

1. How much money has been reserved for SMEs in the next multiannual financial framework, under all headings?
2. How will the Commission ensure that a dedicated SME impact assessment is carried out when preparing any future legislation or plan?
3. Which specific measures does the Commission intend to implement to ensure that SMEs are not disproportionately burdened by higher steel and stainless steel costs under the Steel and Metals Action Plan¹?

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¹ COM(2025)0125.