

Question for written answer E-001030/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: The ‘Antwerp Declaration’

On the eve of the informal EU leaders’ retreat at Alden Biesen meeting, more than 500 European business leaders representing 1 300 companies warned that EU industry faces an existential crisis. At the European Industry Summit in Antwerp, they called on Member States and EU institutions to take urgent action to restore competitiveness, accelerate decarbonisation and prevent further industrial decline.

Industry leaders highlighted electricity prices far above those in China and the United States, excessive administrative burdens and unfair global competition. They called for ‘intelligent regulation’, faster permitting, better access to finance, stronger trade defence instruments and carbon leakage protection. The ‘Antwerp Declaration’ also urged support for fair trade agreements securing raw materials and market access and promoted the idea of a ‘European preference’ in public procurement, to stimulate demand for low-carbon and circular products made in Europe.

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen referred to a forthcoming reform of the Emissions Trading System (ETS), greater use of ETS revenues for industry and possible EU-origin content requirements under a proposed Industrial Accelerator Act¹. However, concrete mechanisms, timelines and safeguards remain unclear.

What specific legislative and financial measures does the Commission intend to propose to ensure the survival, competitiveness and decarbonisation of European industry in the short to medium term?

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¹ Commission proposal of 4 March 2026 for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework of measures for the acceleration of industrial capacity and decarbonisation in strategic sectors and amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1724, (EU) 2024/1735 and (EU) 2024/3110 (COM(2026)0100).