Priority question for written answer P-002901/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Preserving EU capacities to produce paper pulp and cellulose fibres – state of affairs at Fibre Excellence

Fibre Excellence, one of the last paper pulp producers in France, has gone into administration, putting its sites in Saint-Gaudens (Occitanie) and Tarascon (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) at risk and threatening the forestry and wood industry.

This not only brings up the issue of local employment, but also raises questions about the resilience of a strategic value chain: pulp and cellulose fibres are crucial inputs for the packaging, hygiene, textile and bioeconomy sectors, which, in the EU, continue to be dependent on imports.

As pulp production is an energy-intensive industry, the viability of the sites is closely linked to energy costs and the prospects for decarbonising processes.

1. Based on a consolidated analysis of EU pulp and cellulose-fibre production capacities, does the Commission consider this sector to be strategic in view of the EU's industrial autonomy?

2. What EU funding instruments (European Regional Development Fund, Innovation Fund and the upcoming Industrial Decarbonisation Bank) does it think can be mobilised to support the modernisation and electrification of such sites?

3. Given that the new bioeconomy strategy identifies cellulose fibres as one of the priority bio-based sectors, how does it intend to link this strategy with the Clean Industrial Deal?

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