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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU aim to ensure the competitiveness of its industry and a well-functioning internal market attractive to investments. As an example, Regulation (EU) 2024/1735¹ (Net-Zero Industry Act ('NZIA')) provides instruments to support manufacturing capacities for clean technologies and their key components within the European Union, including wind, and limit dependencies from a single country. Articles 25 and 26 of NZIA compel Member States to introduce non-price criteria in public procurement and auctions and help levelling the playing field. In addition, the Commission introduced instruments to stimulate investments in sectors strategic for the transition towards a net-zero economy. The Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework ('TCTF')² includes provisions related to State aid to promote accelerated investments in these sectors. The TCTF also allows to provide higher individual support where there is a risk of investments being diverted away from Europe. In addition, EU funds such those as those channelled through the Innovation Fund and the funds provided through the Recovery and Resilience Facility also support investments in clean technologies. Last, the Commission enforces trade agreements and where necessary uses trade defence instruments. These instruments could protect the European workforce from delocalisation.

Specifically in relation to public auctions, they are the most efficient price discovery mechanism and minimise the need for public support³ while ensuring a sufficient return for the auction winner.

These efforts will continue, including in the context of the Clean Industrial Deal, aimed to ensure competitive industries and quality jobs while decarbonising our economies.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1735 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's net-zero technology manufacturing ecosystem and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724.

² Communication from the Commission Temporary Crisis Framework for State Aid measures to support the economy following the aggression against Ukraine by Russia (OJ C 101/3, 17.3.2023).

³ COM(2022) 638 final.