

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002259/24
to the Commission
Mihai Tudose (S&D)
(24 October 2024)**

Subject: EU manufacturing and exportation of green energy products

The Eurostat report of 14 October 2024 shows a serious imbalance between EU imports and exports of green energy products.

The EU imported solar panels to the value of EUR 19.7 billion in 2023, while exporting EUR 0.9 billion worth of that product, with 98% of the solar panels imported coming from China. At the same time, we purchase — mainly from China, Great Britain and India — almost twice as much liquid biofuel as we export, making this another product in which the EU has a negative trade balance.

On the other hand, sales of wind turbines have recovered strongly over the past two years, with EU exports increasing by 49% to EUR 2 billion in 2023, while turbines worth EUR 0.3 billion were imported from outside the Union. That is encouraging progress.

As a member of the Committee on International Trade, I would like to know what steps the Commission envisages taking in the very near future to encourage the manufacturing and export of green energy products in the EU?

Submitted: 24.10.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(6 January 2025)**

On 28 June 2024, the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) Regulation ⁽¹⁾ entered into force with the goal of bolstering the EU's manufacturing base for net-zero technologies like solar photovoltaic panels, wind turbines, batteries and heat pumps.

This regulation seeks to enhance the competitiveness of the EU's clean technology sector by simplifying permitting, attracting investment, and improving market access for green energy products.

The NZIA sets ambitious benchmarks for net-zero manufacturing capacity to cover at least 40% of the EU's annual deployment needs by 2030, aiming to reach 15% of global production by 2040.

The Net-Zero Europe Platform established under the NZIA will oversee its implementation and will also engage in international partnerships that can open up new export opportunities.

To facilitate exports of green energy goods, the Commission negotiates a set of free trade agreements with third countries, which include dedicated chapters on trade of green energy goods that aim at removing trade barriers and reducing tariffs on trade of such goods.

A new range of Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships have been recently announced in the Commission Political Guidelines ⁽²⁾, which will also be used to promote EU exports of green energy goods and enhance resilience of EU supply chains in related sectors.

Looking ahead, the Commission will make a proposal for a Clean Industrial Deal for competitive industries and quality jobs in the first 100 days of the mandate, which will also focus on simplifying, investing and ensuring access to affordable, sustainable and secure energy supplies and raw materials.

⁽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 (Text with EEA relevance), OJ L, 2024/1735, 28.6.2024.
⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf