

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000196/25
to the Commission**

Mélanie Disdier (Pfe), Roman Haider (Pfe), Séverine Werbrouck (Pfe), Milan Uhrík (ESN), Petar Volgin (ESN), Nikola Bartůšek (Pfe), Hans Neuhoﬀ (ESN), Rada Laykova (ESN), Fabrice Leggeri (Pfe), Ondřej Knotek (Pfe), Diana Iovanovici Șoșoacă (NI), Valérie Deloge (Pfe), António Tânger Corrêa (Pfe)
(17 January 2025)

Subject: Failure of European policies whose aim was to ensure the continent's economic prosperity and preserve our industry

The challenges that ArcelorMittal is facing are the latest symptom of the EU's unhealthy economic climate, which has endured for several decades.

Before the creation of the European Union, Europe knew how to develop corporate groups that became leaders in their field, such as Airbus and Ariane. Europe was a major player in industry.

However, since the 1980s, and in particular since the Maastricht Treaty, Europe no longer builds or innovates. We have missed the Internet revolution, technological revolutions and the AI revolution. Today, even our industrial jewels are under threat and are either collapsing or being gradually bought up by foreign powers.

The European Union was supposed to make us stronger. Instead, it has only pitted us against each other.

At the heart of this game is the Commission, which has been unable to develop anything other than rules and restrictions without doing anything productive.

While the US is innovating into outer space, the Commission is innovating us all into the ground.

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that its policies have failed?
2. Does the Commission intend to continue with the European failures of the last 40 years?
3. The European Green Deal is one example of the policies holding back prosperity. Is the Commission going to reassess it?

Submitted: 17.1.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(8 May 2025)

Through the Single Market, the EU has created a way for European companies to have a large home market of 27 Member States, a gross domestic product in excess of EUR 17 000 billion and 450 million customers ⁽¹⁾. This provides economies of scale and scope, necessary for companies to compete on world markets.

The Commission will continue strengthening the Single Market and will continue its industrial policy, including addressing strategic dependencies.

The European Green Deal ⁽²⁾ has put Europe on the track of decarbonisation. By making Europe more efficient in terms of materials and energy, we will increase our open strategic autonomy and become less dependent on imports, including on critical raw materials.

This will boost EU competitiveness and security, while ensuring a healthy environment for EU current and future generations. The Clean Industrial Deal ⁽³⁾ strengthens the business case for investments in competitiveness and decarbonisation.

More specifically, the Commission will propose an Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act that will increase demand for EU-made clean products, including by making use of introducing sustainability, resilience, and 'made in Europe' criteria in public and private procurement.

Moreover, the Industrial Decarbonisation Bank ⁽⁴⁾ will provide industry with the funding required for ambitious decarbonisation projects. Other measures will boost circularity and ensure access to a skilled workforce.

⁽¹⁾ In addition, the Single Market is well integrated with the European Economic Area as well as with many candidate countries. Further integration is foreseen with the candidate countries.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0640>

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en

⁽⁴⁾ See under Clean Industrial Deal, footnote 3, above.