

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000264/25
to the Commission
Miroslawa Nykiel (PPE)
(22 January 2025)**

Subject: Competitiveness of the European coking industry

One of the Commission's main priorities, as set out in its political guidelines, is ensuring the competitiveness of European industry.

Many sectors, including the coking sector, are facing unfair competition from global players, as is the case with Jastrzębska Spółka Węglowa. In 2023 alone, Indonesia's coking coal exports increased by over 400%, seriously disrupting the European market.

In light of the above:

1. How will the Commission learn from its mistake in relying too heavily on Russian gas and prevent Europe from becoming reliant on imports of a strategic raw material that is essential for steel production, including in the context of industrial security and defence?
2. What specific measures will the Commission take to protect the European market and local jobs in the context of the dire situation of European coking factories caused, among other things, by unfair competition from Indonesia and China?
3. Considering that European coking factories, including Polish factories, adhere to strict environmental standards, in stark contrast to the very different approach to environmental protection in the Far East, what action will the Commission take to ensure the competitiveness of the European market, while also protecting the environment and ensuring high ecological standards?

Submitted: 22.1.2025

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

1. The Commission recognises that the energy-intensive sectors are the backbone of the European manufacturing system but also particularly vulnerable in this phase of the clean energy transition. The Clean Industrial Deal (CID) ⁽¹⁾ proposes actions to safeguard the competitiveness of energy-intensive industries from high energy cost and unfair global competition. Additionally, the CID foresees actions to accelerate decarbonisation through measures aimed at the clean-tech sector. To address overcapacities being redirected to the EU market, the Commission will intensify international and multilateral cooperation. The Commission has also presented a tailor-made action plan ⁽²⁾ for the steel and metals sectors, which account for 95% of coking coal used in the EU.
2. Concerning imports from third countries, the Commission aims to ensure a fair playing field in line with its international trade commitments and, if sufficient evidence for such practices is submitted, could utilise its trade defence instruments, such as anti-dumping or safeguard measures.
3. The Commission equally promotes sustainable development (e.g. adherence to international labour and environmental standards) in international trade, based on commitments set out in multilateral and bilateral agreements, including the rules contained in the 'Trade and Sustainable Development' and 'Energy and Raw Materials' chapters of the free-trade agreements concluded and under negotiation by the EU. The EU will continue engaging to promote internationally agreed sustainability standards.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2025) 85 final.

⁽²⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/european-steel-and-metals-action-plan_en