

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001067/25
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(12 March 2025)**

Subject: Impact of the Green Deal on European competitiveness and industry

The European economy is facing serious challenges due to the increasing regulatory burden and high energy costs imposed by the Green Deal. Strict environmental targets and the lack of affordable and secure energy are harming industry, leading companies to move their production outside Europe. This is reinforcing de-industrialisation and reducing the EU's strategic autonomy, while competitors such as the USA and China are implementing more realistic development policies.

Furthermore, the EU is becoming more dependent on third countries for critical raw materials, while its industrial base is weakening. The current strategy is making it less competitive, while the lack of flexibility in environmental policies is further burdening the economy.

In view of the above,

1. Does the Commission recognise that the Green Deal is restricting European industrial competitiveness and is it considering amending or repealing its most harmful measures?
2. Why does the EU maintain policies that harm its industry, while other economies have more realistic approaches, and does the Commission intend to review climate legislation, ensuring that it does not undermine growth and energy security?
3. How does the Commission intend to limit the EU's increased dependence on third countries for critical raw materials, while ensuring affordable and secure energy for European businesses?

Submitted: 12.3.2025

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

The European Green Deal ⁽¹⁾ aims at putting Europe on a pathway to a climate-neutral continent. The Commission remains committed to the EU's decarbonisation objectives, which will also allow the economy to become more resilient, while boosting industrial competitiveness.

The Clean Industrial Deal ⁽²⁾ presents concrete initiatives to strengthen the business case for competitiveness, decarbonisation and circularity in Europe. It responds to clear demands of EU industry ⁽³⁾ for an industrial deal based on energy and materials security, and an effective market for net zero, low carbon and circular products. It therefore includes actions to improve access to affordable energy, lead markets, materials and circularity, funding and skills, as well as to an international level playing field. The Commission is also simplifying EU rules and their implementation to reduce burdens for businesses, including when it comes to sustainability reporting ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission notes that high energy costs have recently been caused by high fossil fuel prices. The Commission adopted the Affordable Energy Action Plan ⁽⁵⁾, aimed at lowering energy bills while promoting decarbonisation. It will also propose an Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act, with measures to ease permitting for industrial access to energy and decarbonisation.

The EU is committed to implementing critical raw materials policies ⁽⁶⁾ by diversifying supply chains, improving access to funding for strategic projects as well as boosting circular business models. Moreover, a Critical Raw Materials Centre will coordinate joint raw material purchases on behalf of interested companies. Regarding energy supply, the Commission calls for swift adoption of the extension of the gas storage rules ⁽⁷⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en.

⁽³⁾ The Antwerp Declaration for a European Industrial Deal: <https://antwerp-declaration.eu/>.

⁽⁴⁾ Sustainability Omnibus: https://finance.ec.europa.eu/publications/commission-simplifies-rules-sustainability-and-eu-investments-delivering-over-eu6-billion_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/affordable-energy_en.

⁽⁶⁾ See namely the Critical Raw Materials Act: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202401252.

⁽⁷⁾ An update to the Security of Supply Framework is foreseen for 2026.