

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001216/25
to the Commission
Valentina Palmisano (The Left)
(21 March 2025)**

Subject: Supporting the local industry workers and economic sectors affected by pollution caused by the ILVA steelworks

The Commission has launched the Clean Industry Pact and the Steel Action Plan.

One of the only steelworks in the EU which uses coal to produce steel, the Taranto-based Acciaierie d'Italia (formerly ILVA) needs a yearly output of at least 6 million tonnes in order to turn a profit. However, the health impact assessment for these production levels was negative because operations would exceed the health risk threshold.

While production has plateaued at 2 million tonnes, 4 000 of the steelworks' 12 000 employees have been temporarily laid off. The only way to safely ramp up production levels would be decarbonise the plant, but this process would, according to independent scientific studies, only be completed between 2040 and 2050 at the earliest.

In the light of the above:

1. What kind of financial support will the Commission provide for the Acciaierie d'Italia workers who risk losing their jobs?
2. What measures will the Commission take to protect the health of workers whose exposure to polluting substances exceeds the limits set by Directive 2010/75/EU, and will the Commission set up a fund specifically to compensate workers who have been exposed to asbestos and other carcinogens?
3. Is the Commission aware that funds worth EUR 400 million which were initially supposed to finance projects to clean up contaminated aquifers and sites in the area have since been reallocated to the Taranto steelworks so that they can keep production going, and what steps will the Commission take to ensure that the above clean-up operations — which are vital for the development of other sectors, including agriculture, animal rearing, mussel farming and tourism — go ahead?

Submitted: 21.3.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(3 June 2025)**

The Commission is aware of the situation regarding the Acciaierie d'Italia steelworks and its impact on local industry workers and economic sectors.

The Commission acknowledges the challenges posed by the need to decarbonise the plant, while ensuring the health and safety of workers and the surrounding environment.

The Commission has put forward a Clean Industrial Deal⁽¹⁾ which was closely followed by the Steel and Metals Action Plan⁽²⁾, which aims to support the transition of the steel industry towards environmental sustainability.

The action plan sets out measures to support the steel industry in its effort to reduce carbon emissions, while maintaining its competitiveness and protecting the health and safety of workers.

Regarding the support for Acciaierie d'Italia workers, the Commission notes that the National Programme Just Transition Fund Italy, co-funded by the EU with EUR 1.029 billion, provides support for workers at risk of losing their jobs.

In the Taranto area, it will support skilling action for the unemployed and for those at risk of losing their jobs. The Apulia Region also plans to launch relevant training courses, financed by the EU Cohesion Funds.

The Commission is monitoring the implementation of measures adopted to bring the Acciaierie d'Italia plant into compliance with Directive 2010/75/EU⁽³⁾, as part of an ongoing infringement procedure⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en.

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

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2010/75/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ INFR(2013)2177 — https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/inf_25_982.

The Commission is aware that national funds worth EUR 400 million, which were initially supposed to finance projects to clean up contaminated aquifers and sites in the area, have since been reallocated to the Taranto steelworks so that they can keep production going. These funds and their reallocation is a matter for the Italian Republic.
