

EN

E-002039/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.8.2025)

The Commission is fully aware of the current crisis of the EU chemical sector, facing high energy and feedstock prices, sluggish demand, and increased competitive pressures at international level. These major challenges are putting significant strain on EU chemicals' producers, leading to a significant wave of closures across more than 20 major sites in the EU over the last two years.

Given the strategic role of the chemical sector, often referred as the 'industry of industries', the Commission has presented, on 8 July 2025, a European Chemicals Industry Action Plan¹, to respond to the current challenges facing the sector and support its global competitiveness.

The Action Plan focuses on four key intervention areas: 1) strengthening resilience: maintaining critical production in EU and opening new markets and protecting the EU industry; 2) securing energy supply, supporting decarbonisation and shift towards clean and circular economy; 3) creating lead markets and promoting innovation; and 4) simplifying the regulatory framework.

Specifically, to support critical productions in the EU, the Commission intends to establish a Critical Chemical Alliance together with Member States and stakeholders by the end of the year. This Alliance will define criteria for identifying critical molecules and sites. This work will then serve as the basis for targeted policy support measures, which may include enhanced trade monitoring, strengthened trade defence instruments and a possible legislative proposal on critical molecules. In addition, the Alliance will assist Member States and regions in setting up EU Critical Chemical Sites to facilitate investments and improve access to finance for the modernisation of critical production capacities.

¹ COM(2025) 530 final; https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=comnat:COM_2025_0530_FIN#:~:text=It%20sets%20out%20concrete%20measures%20to%20help%20secure,promoting%20innovation%3B%20and%204%29%20simplifying%20the%20regulatory%20framework.