

EN

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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
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Industrial competitiveness is a key objective of the Commission, as outlined in the Clean Industrial Deal¹. The Commission wants to turn decarbonisation into a driver of growth for EU industries, accelerating the transition towards a circular economy and ensure that the EU expands its network of reliable trading partners. International trade is vital for EU industries, particularly those relying on global supply chains for key inputs, or those that are present on export markets.

The Commission wants to ensure that all requirements applicable on the internal market, including EU's environmental and labour policies, are designed and implemented to reduce excessive regulatory burdens, costs for EU producers and consumers, while maintaining EU's relationships with key partners. That is why the Commission is prioritising simplification efforts and ensuring that sustainability, and competitiveness go hand in hand, for example through the Omnibus I Sustainability Simplification Package².

EU free trade agreements can support these objectives by improving market access and also promoting adherence to internationally agreed environmental and labour standards, as well as compliance with EU sustainability rules.

At the same time, the Commission is aware of the challenges faced by the European ceramics industry, including high energy costs and unfair competition. The EU ceramics industry has already been impacted, with production volumes decreasing by 2–3% between 2022 and 2023. The Commission stands ready to defend EU industry against unfair competition. The Commission adopted definitive anti-dumping measures on imports of ceramic tiles from India and Türkiye by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/265 of 9 February 2023³.

¹ COM(2025) 85 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0085>.

² https://finance.ec.europa.eu/news/omnibus-package-2025-04-01_en.

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/265/oj/eng.