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E-002513/2025

E-002514/2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.8.2025)

The Clean Industrial Deal¹ is the EU's strategy to leverage decarbonisation and circularity as drivers of competitiveness and economic growth. It recognises the central role of energy-intensive industries and proposes concrete measures to support these sectors.

Challenges to the EU industry competitiveness are driven by a combination of economic and geopolitical factors, particularly high energy costs, the high upfront investments required for decarbonisation, and in some cases unfair global competition. The Commission is working to provide comprehensive support to energy intensive industries, such as by facilitating access to affordable low-carbon energy, supporting the creation of lead markets for European industrial products, boosting a more circular economy practices or improving our trade defence tools.

Additionally, the Commission intends to extend the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)² to downstream products and by strengthening anti-circumvention tools. The Commission also intends to propose using the revenues generated by CBAM to support production at risk of carbon leakage.

The EU Competitiveness Fund proposal³ will facilitate access to funding instruments in support of competitiveness and decarbonisation. The Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework⁴ simplifies State aid rules, for instance accelerating the process for Member States to provide electricity price support to energy-intensive users as well by providing more flexible criteria to grant aid for decarbonisation investments

Furthermore, to ease the take up of power purchase agreements among industrial users, the European Investment Bank published new schemes of counter-guarantees between clean energy developers and industry.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0085>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/956/oj/eng>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0555&qid=1753718158728>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/3602/oj>.