

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002639/25
to the Commission
Markus Buchheit (ESN)
(30 June 2025)

Subject: The European Green Deal and its unintended role in Europe's deindustrialisation

Despite claims that the European Green Deal would boost the EU's industrial strength, its real impact has been the opposite ⁽¹⁾. Excessive regulations and soaring energy prices are driving manufacturers out of Europe, while subsidised Chinese electric vehicles are flooding our markets. Meanwhile, the US Inflation Reduction Act is attracting investment with competitive incentives. EU climate ideology is putting the survival of our industry at risk.

1. Does the Commission admit that the European Green Deal has weakened the EU's industry and helped expand the market share of non-EU, state-subsidised competitors, such as China?
2. What concrete measures will the Commission take to protect the EU's manufacturers from unfair global competition and internal regulatory disadvantages?
3. Will the Commission revise its industrial and climate policy to prioritise industrial resilience, technological sovereignty and fair global trade conditions?

Submitted: 30.6.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(18 August 2025)

While European industry has shown resilience to recent crises and has many strengths, its competitiveness is under pressure due to several factors, including high energy prices, international competition amidst rising geopolitical tensions, and overcapacities in third countries ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission presented its Competitiveness Compass ⁽²⁾ to address these challenges and boost Europe's competitiveness by closing the innovation gap, decarbonising the economy and reducing dependencies. Decarbonisation is a global challenge that can also be an economic opportunity ⁽³⁾.

The Clean Industrial Deal ⁽⁴⁾ presented a set of actions to strengthen the business case for production and decarbonisation in Europe. It aims to improve access to affordable energy, lead markets, materials and circularity, funding and skills.

The Commission is also simplifying EU rules and their implementation to reduce burdens for businesses ⁽⁵⁾. Moreover, the Affordable Energy Action Plan ⁽⁶⁾ aims at lowering energy bills while promoting decarbonisation.

To accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy, the upcoming Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act will speed up permitting for industry and increase demand for EU-made clean products. Under the Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽⁷⁾, mining and processing in the EU are also encouraged.

The Commission has announced a review of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism ⁽⁸⁾ to reduce the risk of carbon leakage, notably for exports, and prepare a proposal extending it to downstream goods and introducing anti-circumvention measures.

To address unfair competition from outside the EU, the Commission will continue to assess distortive effects of foreign subsidies ⁽⁹⁾ and make fast and efficient use of trade defence instruments.

¹ https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/climate-energy/italys-meloni-warns-eu-green-policies-risk-industrial-desertification-2025-05-17/?utm_source=chatgpt.com.

⁽¹⁾ 2025 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/2025-annual-single-market-and-competitiveness-report_en.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/competitiveness-compass_en; https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/competitiveness-compass_en.

⁽³⁾ As flagged in the Draghi Report: https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/draghi-report_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en of 26 February 2025.

⁽⁵⁾ E.g. Sustainability Omnibus to reduce complexity related to sustainability reporting: https://finance.ec.europa.eu/publications/commission-simplifies-rules-sustainability-and-eu-investments-delivering-over-eu6-billion_en.

⁽⁶⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/affordable-energy_en, also of 26 February 2025.

⁽⁷⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/raw-materials/areas-specific-interest/critical-raw-materials/critical-raw-materials-act_en.

⁽⁸⁾ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism_en.

⁽⁹⁾ Such as the Foreign Subsidies Regulation (https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/foreign-subsidies-regulation_en) and Investment screening (https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/enforcement-and-protection/investment-screening_en).