

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003041/25
to the Commission
Marina Mesure (The Left)
(23 July 2025)**

Subject: Future of the Aluminium Dunkerque plant

Aluminium Dunkerque, the leading producer of primary steel in Europe, is a jewel in the crown of Europe's industry and one of just two production sites in France. Built in 1991, the plant changed hands several times before finally being acquired by the American investment fund AIP, which has made no secret of its intention to sell the site once a capital gain has been achieved.

There is therefore considerable concern as to who will buy the plant, with the previous owners (Rio Tinto and GFG) having significantly underinvested in it. One of the avenues favoured by Aluminium Dunkerque employees is the establishment of a consortium of investors, including the French Government, to oversee an effective industrial strategy.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's view of the proposal that the Aluminium Dunkerque plant be taken over by a consortium that includes the French Government and other stakeholders when the company is put up for sale?
2. Does it plan to block the sale of Europe's industrial crown jewels to companies that are solely motivated by profit and have no intention of making the investments required to ensure the long-term viability of the sites concerned?
3. Does it intend to make public aid to industrial companies contingent on the successful completion of the investments required to maintain jobs and decarbonise the sites concerned?

Submitted: 23.7.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(17 October 2025)**

While the decision regarding the ownership structure of the Aluminium Dunkerque plant does not fall within the remit of the Commission's competences, the Commission is aware of the challenges faced by the European aluminium industry and is working on a set of comprehensive measures to safeguard its competitiveness while supporting its decarbonisation efforts through investment in the EU.

As announced in the Clean Industrial Deal⁽¹⁾, the upcoming Accelerator Act could propose to introduce sustainability, resilience and minimum EU content requirements in public procurement to support the production of EU-made clean products for energy-intensive sectors, such as aluminium.

The key objective of this Act will be to improve the business case for investing in decarbonisation in the EU for energy intensive industries.

Furthermore, the new Clean Industrial Deal state aid framework⁽²⁾ can facilitate access to state aid for the decarbonisation of industry. However, it is for the Member State granting the aid to ensure that the aid recipient complies with the conditions attached to the granted aid, provided such conditions are in line with EU law.

The use of social conditionalities in public funding ensures that workers benefit from the support provided to industry, including to promote collective bargaining. This approach aligns with the EU's broader objectives of fostering social fairness alongside economic growth.

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

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/3602/oj>.