

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004184/25
to the Commission**

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(23 October 2025)

Subject: Sliding scale for steel (Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation and the proposed industrial decarbonisation accelerator act)

Under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) ⁽¹⁾, the Joint Research Centre is conducting a preparatory study on iron and steel products, in advance of a possible delegated act in the future. The study assesses the environmental performance of steelmaking to define its performance and information requirements, including methods for labelling embodied carbon and creating performance classes to promote low-carbon steel markets.

Meanwhile, the forthcoming industrial decarbonisation accelerator act is expected to introduce voluntary labels for intermediate products, starting with steel. Among the labelling methodologies that were evaluated, the sliding-scale approach has emerged as the preferred option. However, indexing performance thresholds to scrap content risks penalising scrap use and discouraging circularity in steelmaking.

1. What measures is the Commission taking to ensure coherence between the industrial decarbonisation accelerator act's labelling framework and the ongoing standardisation of intermediate products under the ESPR?
2. Is the Commission aware that the sliding scale disproportionately and uncompetitively benefits primary steelmaking, discourages scrap use and is bound to increase production costs?
3. Does the Commission recognise that the sliding-scale approach undermines the competitiveness of EU secondary steelmakers, who already rely on scrap, by incentivising greater use of primary raw materials, thereby raising emissions and costs?

Submitted: 23.10.2025

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

The Clean Industrial Deal ⁽¹⁾ highlights the need to create lead markets for low-carbon industrial products, including by developing a voluntary label on the carbon intensity of industrial products, starting with steel.

Such labels will allow producers to distinguish the carbon intensity of their industrial production and benefit from targeted incentives.

The Clean Industrial Deal highlights the need to continue working on developing comprehensive life-cycle assessments, building on the Industrial Accelerator Act's voluntary label, where relevant.

The Commission aims at securing a resilient pathway for all European steelmakers to achieve decarbonisation, while fostering competitiveness.

To this end, the Commission is carefully considering several options to develop a label on the carbon intensity of industrial products, in the Industrial Accelerator Act, including but not limited to the concept of a sliding scale for steel.

The Commission will seek to propose a transparent methodology designed to promote competitive decarbonisation for both primary and secondary steelmakers and will form a building block for the forthcoming label under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation ⁽²⁾.

¹ OJ L, 2024/1781, 28.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1781/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0085>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02024R1781-20240628>.