(English version)

Question for written answer E-004789/25
to the Commission
Jan Farský (PPE)
(3 December 2025)

Subject: Commission assessment of German electricity price subsidies

Germany has recently announced and implemented measures to subsidise electricity prices for energy-intensive industries, with the stated aim of preserving industrial competitiveness amid high energy costs. These measures build on the exceptional flexibility granted to Member States under recent state aid frameworks and are presented as temporary relief for industry.

However, such national schemes risk fragmenting the single market, distorting competition between companies based in different Member States, and reinforcing advantages for countries with greater fiscal resources, to the detriment of businesses elsewhere in the Union.

In this context:

1. How does the Commission assess the compatibility of the current and planned German electricity price subsidy schemes with EU State aid rules, in particular Article 107(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and the principles of necessity, proportionality and minimisation of distortions of competition?

2. How will the Commission react if its assessment were to show that the German measures unduly distort competition or have a disproportionately negative effect on energy prices in neighbouring countries?

3. Does the Commission intend to propose horizontal EU-level instruments or common financing solutions to avoid a subsidy race between Member States with differing budgetary capacities in the field of energy price support for industry?

Submitted: 3.12.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission
(16 February 2026)

The Commission can adopt state aid guidelines in order to set out how it intends to assess certain state aid measures. The Commission understands that the Honourable Member refers to guidelines the Commission has adopted on 25 June 2025, namely the possibility for Member States to provide temporary relief from high electricity prices in return for companies' commitments to invest in decarbonisation, as set out in Section 4.5 of the Clean Industrial Deal state aid Framework (CISAF) ([1]).

In its assessment, the Commission ensures that the aid measure does not cause disproportionate competition distortions. The rationale, the evidential basis and feedback the Commission has relied on are explained in an accompanying document ([2]).

As a general principle, the Commission does not comment on discussions with Member States about state aid matters or speculate about their outcome.

The EU budget provides support on policy objectives including the energy transition and cohesion in the EU, thus helping the budgetary situation in Member States.

The Commission proposed the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2028-2034 in July 2025, with a near EUR 2 trillion budget to finance the priorities of the future, including boosting competitiveness, security, and sovereignty. The new European Competitiveness Fund foresees a dedicated window for lean transition and industrial decarbonisation.

([1]) Communication from the Commission — Framework for State Aid measures to support the Clean Industrial Deal (CISAF), OJ C, C/2025/3602, 4.7.2025.
([2]) Commission Staff Working Document, SWD(2025) 850 final, 4.11.2025. https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/d960b2f1-d699-45c5-ad80-6e82700da393_en?filename=CISAF_staff-working-doc_C_2025_850_en.pdf.