

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000381/26
to the Commission
Dariusz Joński (PPE)
(29 January 2026)**

Subject: Protecting the EU's white goods manufacturing sector

The white goods industry is a pillar of the EU economy, contributing EUR 79 billion to its GDP. The industry directly employs over 200 000 people in 130 factories, with almost one million people forming part of the whole supply chain. It is strongly involved in sustainable development activities, particularly reducing packaging waste, increasing recycling and reducing global energy consumption. It carries out its activities on the basis of the principles of corporate social responsibility.

Unfortunately, the sector has been facing very serious obstacles for several years. It is losing shares in the market due to aggressive competition from non-EU countries that subsidise their domestic white goods industries and also due to a lack of effective protection of the local market. The total volume of products produced in the EU is falling markedly, with further factories closing or significantly reducing production. In 2025, it is estimated that over 50% of large white goods on the EU market will have been imported. With the introduction of the CBAM and high tariffs on steel and plastic, the situation will only become more dire in 2026. Basic prices for the raw materials industry will increase drastically, whether imported or from the EU. This will lead to further deterioration in competitiveness and, consequently, a higher risk of production being relocated outside the EU. This raises the question:

How does the Commission intend to protect the EU's white goods manufacturing sector?

Submitted: 29.1.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(18 March 2026)**

Boosting the EU's industrial competitiveness amid geopolitical challenges is a central priority of the Commission.

To support EU industry, the Commission's Competitiveness Compass ⁽¹⁾ closes the innovation gap, promotes decarbonisation, and reduces dependencies.

Alongside this, the Clean Industrial Deal ⁽²⁾ aims to better position the EU as a global leader in the clean transition, ensure global market access and facilitate investments, both public and private, while promoting skills and quality jobs. At the same time, the action plan for Affordable Energy ⁽³⁾ proposes a broad range of actions to ensure access to affordable energy.

Furthermore, the Industrial Accelerator Act ⁽⁴⁾ will stimulate demand for EU-made clean products, and the forthcoming Circular Economy Act will aim to accelerate the EU's circular economy, including review of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive ⁽⁵⁾, and thereby reduce import dependencies of key raw materials, reduce Single Market fragmentation ⁽⁶⁾, and strengthen secondary raw material markets.

The Commission is also advancing the implementation of the Net-Zero Industry Act ⁽⁷⁾ and the Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽⁸⁾. Through ambitious ecodesign and energy labelling policies, the EU is supporting its industry in marketing their high-quality products.

These initiatives will support the competitiveness of white goods manufacturing industry and help it face complex global challenges.

As an environmental measure, the Commission proposed to expand the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism ⁽⁹⁾ to include certain white goods to address downstream carbon leakage.

⁽¹⁾ A Competitiveness Compass for the EU, COM(2025) 30 final.

⁽²⁾ The Clean Industrial Deal: A joint roadmap for competitiveness and decarbonisation. COM(2025) 85 final.

⁽³⁾ Action Plan for Affordable Energy, COM(2025) 79 final.

⁽⁴⁾ Industrial Accelerator Act: Regulation on establishing a framework of measures for accelerating industrial capacity and decarbonisation in strategic sectors. COM(2026)100 final.

⁽⁵⁾ Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE).

⁽⁶⁾ Strategy for making the Single Market simple, seamless and strong, COM(2025) 500 final.

⁽⁷⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1735 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's net-zero technology manufacturing ecosystem and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 — Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA).

⁽⁸⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials and amending Regulations (EU) No 168/2013, (EU) 2018/858, (EU) 2018/1724 and (EU) 2019/1020 — Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA).

⁽⁹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/956 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 establishing a carbon border adjustment mechanism.