

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000791/26
to the Commission**

**Valentina Palmisano (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left), Danilo Della Valle (The Left), Carolina Morace (The Left),
Dario Tamburrano (The Left), Pasquale Tridico (The Left)**
(25 February 2026)

Subject: State aid for former ILVA steelworks and continued infringements of the judgment in Case C-626/22

On 9 February 2026, the Commission authorised a EUR 390 million bridging loan for the former ILVA steelworks in Taranto, despite structural losses and the Court of Justice of the European Union judgment in Case C-626/22, which requires that operations be suspended given the danger to health.

These public resources have not been allocated to a structural industrial conversion plan that is fully consistent with the objectives of decarbonisation and safeguarding the health of the local area, but rather to maintaining operational continuity in an area that is already seriously compromised from an environmental and health point of view.

In the light of the above:

1. How does the Commission consider this aid to be compatible with the ban on support for structurally loss-making companies, given that the funds fuel obsolete and polluting technologies?
2. What immediate action will it take to enforce compliance with the judgment in Case C-626/22 and halt the use of public funds for activities that are harmful to health?
3. How does the Commission consider this action to be consistent with the ‘do no significant harm’ principle, given the environmental and health context of the Taranto area?

Submitted: 25.2.2026

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

The Commission decision of 9 February 2026 approving the rescue aid to Acciaierie d'Italia S.p.A. in Amministrazione Straordinaria is based on Article 107(3)(c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), under which aid can be approved if it contributes to the development of an economic activity or an economic area and provided that it does not adversely affect competition and trade between Member States to an extent contrary to the common interest ⁽¹⁾.

The urgent rescue loan approved in the decision will be exclusively used to meet operating costs, such as contractual wages and supplies, for some months.

Moreover, the rescue loan is without prejudice to the obligation of Italy to take all necessary measures to ensure compliance in the shortest possible timeframe with the Industrial Emissions Directive ⁽²⁾, as interpreted in the judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union ⁽³⁾.

The additional letter of formal notice sent to Italy in the context of infringement procedure INFR(2013)2177 ⁽⁴⁾ takes account of the Court's findings.

The rescue loan merely bridges the liquidity gap with a view to transferring operations to a private investor that will be selected in the ongoing selection process and which may eventually be liable to repay the rescue aid.

In this regard, the Commission takes note of the announcement of the Italian Government that the new operator will also be obliged to decarbonise the Taranto plant.

Given its legal basis (Article 107 TFEU), therefore, the ‘do no significant harm’ principle is not applicable to the Commission decision of 9 February 2026.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C1662 of 17.03.2026, p.1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 334, 12.12.2010, pp. 17-119.

⁽³⁾ ECLI:EU:C:2024:542.

⁽⁴⁾ [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR\(2013\)2177&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate](https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR(2013)2177&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate)