

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001030/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(11 March 2026)

Subject: The ‘Antwerp Declaration’

On the eve of the informal EU leaders’ retreat at Alden Biesen meeting, more than 500 European business leaders representing 1 300 companies warned that EU industry faces an existential crisis. At the European Industry Summit in Antwerp, they called on Member States and EU institutions to take urgent action to restore competitiveness, accelerate decarbonisation and prevent further industrial decline.

Industry leaders highlighted electricity prices far above those in China and the United States, excessive administrative burdens and unfair global competition. They called for ‘intelligent regulation’, faster permitting, better access to finance, stronger trade defence instruments and carbon leakage protection. The ‘Antwerp Declaration’ also urged support for fair trade agreements securing raw materials and market access and promoted the idea of a ‘European preference’ in public procurement, to stimulate demand for low-carbon and circular products made in Europe.

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen referred to a forthcoming reform of the Emissions Trading System (ETS), greater use of ETS revenues for industry and possible EU-origin content requirements under a proposed Industrial Accelerator Act ⁽¹⁾. However, concrete mechanisms, timelines and safeguards remain unclear.

What specific legislative and financial measures does the Commission intend to propose to ensure the survival, competitiveness and decarbonisation of European industry in the short to medium term?

Submitted: 11.3.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(20 May 2026)

As set out in the Competitiveness Compass ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is implementing many initiatives to strengthen the business case for industry in Europe. These encompass the Clean Industrial Deal ⁽²⁾, also considering concerns raised in the first Antwerp Declaration ⁽³⁾.

Short-term measures include relief from high energy costs under the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework ⁽⁴⁾, the new Crisis Framework ⁽⁵⁾, financial schemes for power purchase agreements ⁽⁶⁾ and the drive to lower energy taxes and network tariffs.

Medium-term measures include tools to ease support for renewable energy, decarbonisation and technological leadership via national aid ⁽⁷⁾ or tax incentives ⁽⁸⁾ and the European Competitiveness Fund ⁽⁹⁾.

The Commission will also modernise the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). It has already proposed to increase the ETS Market Stability Reserve’s firepower and planned an ETS review for July 2026 to boost the decarbonisation business case

At the same time, the Commission will propose an investment booster for rapid industrial decarbonisation investments, financed by EUR 400 million ETS allowances with an estimated EUR 30 billion budget.

The Industrial Accelerator Act ⁽¹⁰⁾ will strengthen industrial competitiveness and decarbonisation through faster industrial permitting, creation of lead markets for low-carbon and made-in-EU products through demand-side measures, and targeted conditions on foreign investment in strategic areas.

¹ Commission proposal of 4 March 2026 for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework of measures for the acceleration of industrial capacity and decarbonisation in strategic sectors and amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1724, (EU) 2024/1735 and (EU) 2024/3110 (COM(2026)0100).

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0030>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0085>.

⁽³⁾ <https://antwerp-declaration.eu/>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISUM:5451053>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C_202602593.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2025-247-eib-group-increases-2025-financing-ceiling-to-record-eur100-billion-to-step-up-investments-in-security-and-defence-energy-grids-and-europe-s-tech-leadership>.

⁽⁷⁾ See footnote 4.

⁽⁸⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202501307.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0555&qid=1774360904904>.

⁽¹⁰⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026PC0100&qid=1774359282412>.

The Commission is addressing barriers under the Single Market Strategy ⁽¹¹⁾ and has so far proposed ten Omnibus packages ⁽¹²⁾ to reduce burdens.

The ‘One Europe, One Market Roadmap’ ⁽¹³⁾ sets clear timelines to deliver on strategic priorities.

⁽¹¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0500>.

⁽¹²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/simplification-and-implementation/simplification_en.

⁽¹³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_878.