

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001239/26
to the Commission
Bruno Tobback (S&D)
(25 March 2026)**

Subject: EU manufacturing of net-zero technologies and trade defence

While the Net-Zero Industry Act ⁽¹⁾ (NZIA) identifies strategic net-zero technologies as critical to EU decarbonisation and energy security, European manufacturers face growing import pressure from heavily subsidised non-EU suppliers. This threat to European competitiveness is being compounded by delays in the Commission's handling of trade defence submissions, due to resource constraints and a queue system that fails to prioritise strategic industries — undermining the EU's 'Made in EU' ambitions for clean technology under the proposed industrial accelerator act.

1. What steps are being taken to ensure that the Commission's Directorate-General for Trade has sufficient staffing and operational capacity, particularly in the area of trade defence, to process time-sensitive files affecting strategic net-zero technologies (e.g. in the wind and solar power supply chain) in a timely manner?
2. How can the Commission remain consistent with the EU's stated objectives on strategic autonomy, energy independence and the NZIA if it does not give strategic net-zero technology industries better access to trade defence instruments?
3. Given the long time frame for the deployment of net-zero technologies and the use of tenders for projects requiring certain components, will the Commission ensure that its trade defence methodology works suitably for all industries, considering the structural, temporal and operational specificities of certain sectors, particularly those that rely on tenders?

Submitted: 25.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(13 May 2026)**

There has been a significant increase in the demand for trade defence action to tackle unfair trade practices across many sectors. The Commission makes every effort within its resource constraints to meet this demand by adopting contingency measures and has managed to open almost three times the historical average number of new cases since January 2024.

The Commission is aware of the challenges facing not only the net-zero technology industry sector but many strategic sectors in the EU and ensures that access to the trade defence instruments is open to all sectors that are facing unfair competition from imports.

The Commission aims to initiate investigations as quickly as possible on the basis of complaints which meet the necessary legal standard.

In this context, all potential complainants are advised on the process and all complaints received must be assessed in light of strict legal requirements, given that each step in an investigation, from initiation to the imposition of measures, can be subject to judicial review.

The Trade Defence services have met with potential complainants from the net-zero technologies sector swiftly and continue to actively engage with them to provide full support in using the trade defence instruments.

As regards tenders, this presents technical complexities in investigations and is addressed on a case-by-case basis examining the specifics of each proceeding.

¹ 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 (OJ L, 2024/1735, 28.6.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1735/oj>).