

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001241/26
to the Commission
Gerald Hauser (P/E)
(25 March 2026)

Subject: ECF Regulation: high costs, low chances of success

A new regulation on establishing the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) is currently being prepared. According to the proposal for a regulation, in the period between 2028 and 2034, EUR 26.21 billion is to be set aside for ‘the clean transition and industrial decarbonisation’, EUR 20.393 billion for ‘health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy’, EUR 51.493 billion for ‘digital leadership’ and EUR 125.204 billion for ‘resilience and security, the defence industry and space’. The EU is taking on an increasing number of responsibilities in this area, but in practice it is failing miserably. The EU is no longer competitive at all. The EU’s health systems are collapsing, the EU is being deindustrialised, the economy and agriculture are being destroyed, the EU has long lagged behind China and the US digitally, and EU defence spending is being wasted pointlessly in a corrupt Ukraine.

1. How is the Commission going to save the EU’s health systems?
2. How is the Commission going to provide ‘secure, affordable, efficient and clean energy for all Europeans’, as promised in the regulation?
3. Does the Commission guarantee that the planned ‘digital wallet’ will not be used to monitor every aspect of people’s lives (personal, health and financial data)?

Submitted: 25.3.2026

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

In July 2025, the Commission published its proposal for the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) ⁽¹⁾, which, once adopted, will mobilise an unprecedented budget for European competitiveness.

The Commission supports Member States to strengthen their health systems via funding, technical assistance, knowledge sharing and policy advice. Under the ECF proposal, the Fund aims to strengthen the efficiency, innovation and resilience of health systems.

Member States can also use the national and regional partnership plans ⁽²⁾ to facilitate access to healthcare services and associated infrastructure.

The ECF is proposed to support energy projects and infrastructure that will bring down energy costs overtime, mobilising the uptake of clean energy and related technologies. The ECF aims to support the creation of a digitalised, reliable and resilient European energy system and the single energy market.

Moreover, the AccelerateEU Communication ⁽³⁾ presented on 22 April 2026 includes immediate targeted and temporary actions to be implemented by Member States to protect households and industry from high energy prices.

Data protection and privacy are cornerstones of the European Digital Identity Wallets (EUDIWs). The General Data Protection Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ fully applies to data processing under the European Digital Identity Regulation ⁽⁵⁾.

The legal framework is built on the premise that EUDIWs users shall have full control of their wallet data and EUDIWs providers shall not collect information not necessary for the provision of wallet services. The use of EUDIWs will be voluntary and will offer a pseudonym function.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0555>.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/budget/eu-budget-2028-2034-explained/investing-people-member-states-and-regions_en.

⁽³⁾ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/accelerateeu-energy-union-affordable-and-secure-energy-through-accelerated-action_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02016R0679-20160504>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.257.01.0073.01.ENG.