

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001284/26
to the Commission
Tobiasz Bocheński (ECR)
(26 March 2026)**

Subject: Deindustrialisation of the EU

More and more industrial investments are taking place outside of the EU, while the industry's overall share of the economy is shrinking. High energy costs and regulations constitute a significant barrier to industrial development in Europe.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission recognise the impact of EU regulations on the outflow of investment?
2. Can the Commission provide an analysis of sectors at risk of deindustrialisation?
3. Does the Commission intend to reduce regulations that make the EU less attractive for investments?

Submitted: 26.3.2026

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

Several EU industrial sectors face competitiveness challenges, including the automotive, metals and chemicals sectors ⁽¹⁾. Eurofound's European Restructuring Monitor ⁽²⁾ provides intelligence on large-scale restructuring in the EU, including offshoring to third countries concentrated in the manufacturing industry, particularly electronics, textiles, transport equipment, machinery and chemicals.

The Commission has set out an ambitious programme to increase the competitiveness of European industry and attract investments, including by simplifying EU legislation ⁽³⁾.

In 2025, the Commission proposed ten omnibus packages and other simplification proposals for total net recurrent administrative cost savings of EUR 15 billion per year ⁽⁴⁾.

Omnibus II ⁽⁵⁾ focuses on simplifying EU investment programmes and reducing related administrative burden. Also, the proposed Industrial Accelerator Act ⁽⁶⁾ aims to accelerate industrial investment including through simpler and faster permitting procedures.

On 28 April 2026, the Commission presented a communication ⁽⁷⁾ on simpler, clearer and better enforced EU rules. It incorporates 'simplicity by design' by which the Commission wants to ensure that new legislative proposals avoid regulatory complexity and fragmentation.

It also includes an action plan for regulatory deep cleaning aiming to improve regulatory efficiency, modernise and simplify 12 key policy areas that will be examined with priority in 2026 and 2027.

Further proposals will follow, towards the target to reduce administrative burden by at least 25% for all businesses and 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises. Burden reduction in specific sectors is captured in sectoral action plans ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Heikkonen, Listl and Reuter (2025): Mapping the impact of industrial decline on European regions.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/en/surveys-and-data/european-restructuring-monitor>.

⁽³⁾ See e.g. Communications on Competitiveness Compass COM(2025) 30 final, Single Market Strategy COM(2025) 500 final, 'A Simpler and Faster Europe' COM(2025) 47 final.

⁽⁴⁾ More information at https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/simplification-and-implementation/simplification_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/omnibus-ii_en.

⁽⁶⁾ 2026/0068 (COD).

⁽⁷⁾ Communication 'A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook' COM(2026) 380 final.

⁽⁸⁾ COM(2025) 125 final (steel and metals); COM(2025) 530 final (chemicals); COM(2025) 95 final (automotive sector).