

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001385/26
to the Commission
Thomas Pellerin-Carlin (S&D)
(7 April 2026)**

Subject: Risks facing the recycled and lead-free brass production sector in Europe

Against a backdrop of challenges for European industry, which faces unfair international competition and an unfavourable geopolitical climate, the European Union cannot abandon its industrial base, which is essential to our energy and environmental transition.

Energy-intensive sectors, such as metallurgy, play a vital role in this transition.

Many sectors are affected, but the Commission must be alerted to the fact that there is a real risk of the recycled and lead-free brass production sector disappearing from the European Union, owing to the economic difficulties faced by HME Brass, which is based in L'Aigle, Normandy. This is the only site within the Hailiang Metal Group producing this alloy, which is essential for certain European industrial value chains.

In view of the strategic challenges the Union faces in terms of industrial sovereignty and the resilience of its supply chains:

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation in this strategic sector?
2. What measures does it intend to take to support this strategic production within the Union, in particular through the use of available instruments such as state aid compatible with the internal market, public procurement or the integration of this production into major projects of common European interest?

Submitted: 7.4.2026

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

The Commission thanks the Honourable Member for drawing its attention to the situation of the recycled and lead-free brass production sector in the EU and, in particular, to the case of HME Brass in L'Aigle, Normandy.

The Commission acknowledges the importance of brass production for certain European industrial value chains, as well as more generally the strategic role of non-ferrous metal industries in supporting the EU's clean transition.

This was recognised in the 2025 Steel and Metals Action Plan ⁽¹⁾, which includes actions on access to clean and affordable energy; active monitoring of scrap trade, notably to prevent scrap leakage and promotion of investments in high-quality recycling, sorting and treatment of scrap.

The Commission is committed to supporting the competitiveness and resilience of strategic industrial sectors in the EU, as recently recognised in the proposal for an Industrial Accelerator Act ⁽²⁾, which promotes streamlined permitting for decarbonisation projects, including upgrades, and enabling conditions for facilities located in prospective acceleration areas.

State aid may play an important role in supporting the transformation of industries. For example, the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework (CISAF) ⁽³⁾ facilitates decarbonisation investments. Member States may also support undertakings in difficulty in line with the Rescue and Restructuring Guidelines.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=COM:2025:125:FIN>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52026PC0100>.

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C_202503602.