(English version)

Question for written answer E-001401/26
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(8 April 2026)

Subject: The need to improve the EU Taxonomy Regulation in order to safeguard the competitiveness of European industry

It is clear from the latest proposed amendments to the delegated acts for the EU Taxonomy Regulation that the Commission is effectively acknowledging that the existing technical criteria were overly complex, difficult to apply and disconnected from economic realities. At the same time, the repeated adjustments to these rules raise serious doubts about the quality of the original impact assessments and the influence of intense lobbying by certain Member States and technologically privileged sectors. As a result, the current framework not only fails to ensure technological neutrality, but also hinders the development of a broad industrial base in the EU and limits the competitiveness of European companies vis-à-vis global competitors operating in a more predictable and pragmatic regulatory environment.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission explain the fact that further significant adjustments are needed to a system that was supposed to be a stable and reliable tool for targeting investments, and what flaws in its original design have been identified?

2. How does the Commission intend to guarantee genuine technological neutrality and limit the influence of Member States' vested interests in the design of the criteria, so that they do not favour certain industrial models over others?

3. Is the Commission planning to carry out a more thorough review of the taxonomy with a view to making it simpler and more realistic, so that it supports the restoration of European industry's competitiveness and does not act as a barrier to productive investment in the EU?

Submitted: 8.4.2026

Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(9 June 2026)

Regulation (EU) 2020/852 ([1]) ('Taxonomy Regulation') remained stable since 2020. The regulation itself does not need significant adjustments.

One of the areas in which the Commission deemed necessary to introduce adjustments is the technical screening criteria to identify if an activity is Taxonomy-aligned.

These technical screening criteria are included in Delegated Acts, which are designed to be updated when needed. Article 19(5) of the Taxonomy Regulation empowers the Commission to regularly review the technical screening criteria.

For certain criteria, the regulation provides a maximum time limit of 3 years for their reviews, highlighting the evolving nature of the system.

The Commission is currently reviewing the criteria, while keeping the level of environmental ambition. The simplified criteria should benefit European corporates, facilitate their access to sustainable finance and drive their competitiveness.

Article 19(1)(a) of the Taxonomy Regulation requires the Commission to ensure that the criteria respect the principle of technological neutrality. In this context, the Taxonomy Regulation enables the Commission to revise or complement the criteria to take into account future innovations and environmental or economic progress.

The Commission is not planning a thorough review of the Taxonomy Regulation. The Commission is currently revising the screening criteria to make them simpler and more usable and meaningful in supporting EU businesses in their access to finance.

It is important to underscore that the Taxonomy framework does not impose any requirement on EU businesses to align their economic activities to the Taxonomy screening criteria.

([1]) Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/852/oj).