

EN

E-001433/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.6.2026)

The Commission has implemented policies to support the decarbonisation and competitiveness of the European steel, namely the Clean Industrial Deal¹ and the Steel and Metals Action Plan². In addition to financial support under the Innovation Fund³, Just Transition Fund (JTF)⁴, inter alia, the proposal for an Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA)⁵ proposes mandatory requirements to use a minimum share of low-carbon steel in automotive and construction, in public procurement and support schemes. This will be complemented by the trade measure replacing the steel safeguards, to ensure the industry's long-term viability.

The Commission ensures that public support is linked to investments in decarbonisation by conditioning State aid approval to greenhouse gas emissions reductions criteria. Furthermore, the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework (CISAF)⁶ allows Member States to include requirements related to social protection or employment conditions when designing the measure. The JTF supports investments in the steel sector, when necessary for the protection of jobs. Moreover, the legal basis for Cohesion Policy funds establishes common rules for the durability of supported operations.

The legal basis for the Commission's State aid control does not allow to make an aid measure dependent on conditions, such as claw-back of aid procedures where the beneficiaries offshore activities and cut European jobs. Under the CISAF, public support can incentivise the aid beneficiary to realise the investment in the European Economic Area (EEA) rather than in the alternative location outside the EEA (funding gap).

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0085>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=COM:2025:125:FIN>.

³ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/eu-funding-climate-action/innovation-fund/legal-framework_en.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02021R1056-20250920>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52026PC0100&qid=1779892274163>.

⁶ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C_202503602.