*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-001540/26**
**to the Commission**
**Estelle Ceulemans (S&D)**
*(15 April 2026)*

*Subject:* Consistency between EU climate policies and industrial strategies

The decarbonisation of the steel sector is key to achieving the European Union's climate targets. However, there are several indications of a disconnect between the stated ambitions of certain major players in the sector and the strategies they have implemented.

Notably, ArcelorMittal has delayed or scaled back certain decarbonisation projects in Europe, while remaining highly dependent on carbon-intensive production processes. Furthermore, criticism has been levelled at the lack of emission reduction targets which are aligned with international scientific standards.

In view of this:

1. How does the Commission assess the credibility of the decarbonisation pathways of major steel groups?

2. What tools does it plan to use to ensure that publicly funded green investments are actually carried out in Europe?

3. How does the Commission intend to avoid the risks of 'carbon leakage' associated with the offshoring of certain operations?

Submitted: 15.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission**
*(22 June 2026)*

The Commission has published a study ([1]) to develop EU sectoral decarbonisation pathways consistent with the objectives of the European Climate Law, covering multiple sectors including steel. These pathways may serve as a reference framework for assessing the alignment of corporate transition plans with EU climate objectives.

The Commission may support undertakings by providing sector-specific guidance that illustrates and facilitates the application of European Sustainability Reporting Standards ([2]).

A number of actions in the Clean Industrial Deal Communication ([3]) and the Steel and Metals Action Plan ([4]) concern green investments. These include lowering energy costs, cutting permitting timelines, creating lead markets for low-carbon steel, skills and workforce development and strengthening domestic supply chains. Innovation Fund rules also require projects to be developed and deployed in Europe.

The proposed European Competitiveness Fund award procedures may include local production requirements or apply incentives for Union entities.

The Industrial Accelerator Act ([5]) proposes steel lead markets for public procurement and public support. Low-carbon steel can also be used to comply with the $CO_2$ standards for cars and vans. The ETS review foreseen before summer 2026 will ensure that the system will maintain investment certainty and signals for decarbonisation.

Carbon leakage in the steel sector is addressed by targeted free allocation in the EU ETS and by the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. Support under the proposed Temporary Decarbonisation Fund will further mitigate risks.

The provisionally agreed trade measures introduce a new tariff system with reduced import quotas and higher duties for imports exceeding those quotas.

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([1]) Making finance flows consistent with climate goals — Climate Action: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/eu-funding-climate-action/making-finance-flows-consistent-climate-goals_en.
([2]) Directive (EU) 2026/470 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 February 2026 amending Directives 2006/43/EC, 2013/34/EU, (EU) 2022/2464 and (EU) 2024/1760 as regards certain corporate sustainability reporting requirements and certain corporate sustainability due diligence requirements (Text with EEA relevance): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202600470.
([3]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0085.
([4]) https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7807ca8b-10ce-4ee2-9c11-357afe163190_en?filename=Communication%20-%20Steel%20and%20Metals%20Action%20Plan.pdf.
([5]) https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/9bc8eb85-4d43-4025-be7b-c86b9f3648ec_en?filename=Proposal%20establishing%20measures%20for%20industrial%20capacity%20and%20decarbonisation%20in%20strategic%20sectors%20.pdf.