

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001682/26
to the Commission**

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(23 April 2026)

Subject: Risks hanging over the European steel industry and use of public funding by ArcelorMittal

The European steel industry needs to successfully decarbonise its production processes, while also remaining competitive in the face of increased and sometimes unfair international competition.

To help it meet this challenge, ArcelorMittal, which accounted for around 53% of primary steel production in Europe in 2021, was granted EU and national funding to decarbonise several of its sites, including its one in Dunkirk.

However, despite a positive economic performance internationally, the group has recently announced job cuts and is considering relocating some of its activities to third countries, particularly Asia.

Given the strategic importance of the sector for the EU's industrial autonomy, including in critical fields such as defence, what control and monitoring mechanisms does the Commission intend to implement to ensure that the industrial strategies of companies receiving EU aid are in line with its objectives in terms of maintaining production capacity, jobs and decarbonisation in the European Union?

Submitted: 23.4.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission

(8 June 2026)

The Commission addressed the specific challenge of decarbonising strategic sectors while maintaining competitiveness, production capacity and employment, setting up the Just Transition Fund ⁽¹⁾.

The Fund supports investments reducing greenhouse gas emissions from activities listed in Annex I to Directive 2003/87/EC ⁽²⁾, including from steel production.

Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 ⁽³⁾ lays down conditions for the eligibility of such support, including the necessity for the protection of a significant number of jobs.

Moreover, Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 establishes rules for the durability of supported operations common to cohesion policy funds.

In addition, the Treaty legal basis for the Commission's control of state aid (Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) does not, as such, provide for the imposition on aid recipients of conditions aimed at maintaining production capacity and jobs in the EU.

However, some EU State aid Guidelines, such as the 2021 Guidelines on Regional State Aid ⁽⁴⁾ and the 2025 Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework ⁽⁵⁾, require State-aided investments to be maintained in the Member State concerned for a specified period of time.

It is for the Member State concerned to ensure that the aided company complies with such requirements, without prejudice to any additional requirements that the Member State may also include in compliance with EU law.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1056, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1056/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2003/87/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ See footnote 1.

⁽⁴⁾ Communication from the Commission — Guidelines on regional state aid, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0429%2801%29>.

⁽⁵⁾ Communication from the Commission — Framework for State Aid measures to support the Clean Industrial Deal, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/3602/oj>.