

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002566/26  
to the Commission**

**Reinier Van Lanschot (Verts/ALE), Anna Strolenberg (Verts/ALE), Kai Tegethoff (Verts/ALE), Nela Riehl (Verts/ALE)**  
(22 June 2026)

*Subject:* Proposed EUR 2 billion state aid to Tata Steel Nederland

The Dutch Government intends to grant EUR 2 billion in state aid to Tata Steel Nederland (TSN). The Commission is currently engaged in pre-notification consultations with the Dutch authorities regarding the proposed measure. The civil society organisation Advocates for the Future has submitted observations outlining concerns about the compatibility of the aid with EU State aid rules, in particular under the climate, environmental protection and energy aid guidelines (CEEAG).

The Commission is asked to clarify the process and its considerations regarding the assessment of this state aid measure under the CEEAG:

1. When does the Commission intend to conclude the pre-notification phase and initiate the formal assessment of the proposed aid, and what is the expected timeline for this assessment?
2. How will the Commission verify that the proposed state aid fulfils the additionality requirement under the CEEAG, given that TSN may already be subject to existing legal obligations to reduce emissions?
3. How will the Commission assess whether the aid is proportionate, in particular in the light of concerns that up to 40% of the investment costs may be publicly funded?

Submitted: 22.6.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera on behalf of the European Commission**  
(26 August 2026)

The Commission is in pre-notification contact with the Netherlands regarding the proposed measure, however it cannot comment on ongoing cases neither on substance nor timing.

In general, when a Member State submits files which are not sufficiently clear, the Commission sends requests for information. This is a standard step in a state aid assessment, which also determines the timeline of such assessment. That timeline therefore differs from case to case.

One of the conditions that need to be assessed to see whether environmental aid can be considered compatible with the internal market is whether the aid has an incentive effect, as set out in Section 3.1.2 of the Climate Environmental protection and Energy Aid Guidelines (CEEAG) <sup>(1)</sup>.

This means that the aid incentivises the beneficiary to change its behaviour to engage in additional economic activity or in more environmentally-friendly economic activity, which it would not do without the aid. Therefore, aid cannot be granted to merely cover the cost of adapting to EU standards.

The CEEAG sets out in Section 3.2.1.3 that aid is considered to be proportionate if the aid amount per beneficiary is limited to the minimum needed for carrying out the aided project.

The aid therefore needs to correspond to the net extra cost necessary to meet the objective of the aid measure, compared to the counterfactual scenario in the absence of aid.

The determination of these net extra costs depends on the aid granting process (competitive bidding or not) and on the type of aid granted.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Communication from the Commission — Guidelines on state aid for climate, environmental protection and energy 2022 (OJ C 80, 18.2.2022, p. 1).