

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002886/26
to the Commission
Anthony Smith (The Left)
(13 July 2026)**

Subject: Consistency between EU industrial decarbonisation funding and the EU's restrictive measures: the case of ROCKWOOL

The ROCKWOOL Group continued to operate four factories in Russia following the invasion of Ukraine, until they were decreed to be under external administration in January 2026. According to its accounts, in 2025 its Russian operations made a turnover of EUR 261 million and an operating profit of EUR 78 million. Investigations by journalists have revealed that ROCKWOOL products have been supplied, via distributors, to 31 Russian ships and submarines, and that they are present in occupied Ukrainian territories, including Mariupol.

At the same time, a project to build a ROCKWOOL facility in France is receiving EUR 10.6 million in public funding under the 'decarbonisation of industry' scheme, itself co-funded to the tune of 40% from by the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).

1. Does the Commission run checks to ensure that recipients of decarbonisation aid reimbursed by the RRF comply with the Union's restrictive measures and have no links with the Russian war economy or the development of the occupied territories?
2. Does it consider that such a company should, in the interests of consistency in policy, be eligible for European funding, and what conditions govern the use of these funds?
3. Does it intend to publish guidelines to rule out EU industrial and decarbonisation funding for companies linked to the Russian war economy or the development of occupied territories?

Submitted: 13.7.2026

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

Pursuant to the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) Regulation ⁽¹⁾, Member States shall take all the appropriate measures to protect the financial interests of the EU and to ensure that the use of funds in relation to measures supported by the Facility complies with the applicable EU and national law. The selection of individual projects supported under such measures is carried out by the Member State concerned.

The Commission assesses the satisfactory fulfilment of the relevant milestones and targets in light of the applicable rules as well as risk-based *ex-post* audits and audits of Member States' control systems.

Furthermore, Member States have to comply with state aid rules where applicable, including for funds originating from the RRF. Pursuant to point 52 of the state aid Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework ⁽²⁾, aid shall not be granted to undertakings under sanctions adopted by the EU.

In the same spirit, an aid measure must be in full compliance with the anti-circumvention rules of the applicable regulations and it must be avoided that natural persons or entities subject to the sanctions benefit directly or indirectly from any such measures (point 58 of the framework).

A list of guidance documents concerning sanctions adopted following Russia's military aggression against Ukraine is available on the Commission website ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

⁽²⁾ Communication from the Commission Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework for State Aid measures to support the economy following the aggression against Ukraine by Russia 2023/C 101/03.

⁽³⁾ <https://finance.ec.europa.eu/eu-and-world/sanctions-restrictive-measures/sanctions-adopted-following-russias-military-aggression-against-ukraine/>.