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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.10.2026)

The Commission is fully aware of the crisis of the European chemicals industry. The current challenges are highlighted in the European Chemicals Industry Action Plan¹ adopted in 2025.

The Commission has put in place several initiatives to support the sector and has set up the Critical Chemicals Alliance², comprising Member States, regions, industry, trade unions and other stakeholders. The Alliance has developed analysis in four areas: identification of critical molecules, trade, modernisation and investments, and lead markets³.

The Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework⁴ allows Member States to offer electricity price relief, reinforced through a temporary aid framework adopted in response to the Persian Gulf crisis this spring 2026⁵. The Commission also extended indirect Emissions Trade System cost compensation to more chemical sectors in 2025⁶. To cut red tape, the Commission has adopted twelve omnibus packages, including one on chemicals⁷ and an environmental omnibus⁸. In addition, the proposed Industrial Accelerator Act⁹ aims to speed up permitting.

The Commission intends to build on the work of the Critical Chemicals Alliance to strengthen its toolbox. The Commission will also work together with Member States, regions, the European Investment Bank and the industry to coordinate and align funding.

Finally, following a comprehensive assessment, the Commission has concluded that a full legislative revision of the Regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH)¹⁰ is not the most effective approach. Instead, the Commission is enhancing REACH through targeted regulatory updates, strengthened enforcement and digital innovation.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0530&qid=1790752447832>.

² https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/chemicals/critical-chemicals-alliance_en.

³ To date, five reports have been published on the Alliance's website.

⁴ https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/about/contribution-clean-just-and-competitive-transition/clean-industrial-deal-state-aid-framework-cisaf_en.

⁵ Middle East Crisis Temporary State Aid Framework (METSAF): https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/state-aid/legislation/metsaf_en.

⁶ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C_202600196.

⁷ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/simplification-certain-requirements-and-procedures-chemical-products_en.

⁸ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/simplification-administrative-burdens-environmental-legislation_en.

⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52026PC0100>.

¹⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20260622>.