

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000611/25
to the Commission
Kosma Złotowski (ECR)
(11 February 2025)**

Subject: EU climate policy as the cause of the hardships facing chemical industry workers in Kujawsko-Pomorskie Province

The chemical industry in Europe is being put under increasing pressure by EU regulations, such as the Fit for 55 package. As a result, the Qemetica Soda Polska plant in Janikowo has had to suspend production due to the crisis on the European soda ash market.

European chemical producers cannot compete with companies outside the EU, especially those in Turkey, which can supply soda ash to the EU market at much lower prices because they do not have to meet stringent emissions or environmental standards. As a result, European companies are being pushed out of the market, which is leading to production cuts and will inevitably result in job cuts in the future.

1. What steps will the Commission take to level the playing field for European soda producers and protect the EU chemical industry from unfair competition from non-EU companies?
2. Does the Commission intend to revise climate and environmental policy objectives that are detrimental to the competitiveness of EU heavy industry or introduce protective measures to compensate for differences in production costs and to protect jobs in Europe?
3. If companies in the chemical sector are forced to reduce their workforce due to excessive European climate regulations, can they benefit from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers?

Submitted: 11.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(11 March 2025)**

1. Under the EU emissions trading system (ETS), soda ash producers are considered to be carbon leakage sectors and so have their competitiveness supported through higher free allowances. The Commission is working with third countries for the wider establishment of carbon pricing, including with Türkiye which is in the process of adopting national legislation.
2. The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) puts a price that mirrors the EU ETS on the embedded carbon emissions of imported goods under its scope, and aims to encourage cleaner imports into the EU. A study on a potential scope extension of the CBAM is ongoing and the chemicals sector is part of this assessment.
3. For the period 2021-2027, potential redundancies in the Qemetica Soda Polska plant in Janikowo could be supported through the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF), if a Member State applies and the criteria defined in the regulation ⁽¹⁾ are fulfilled.

In addition, the Commission uses trade defense instruments to tackle unfairly dumped or subsidised imports of such products harming EU producers. EU industry suffering because of unfairly traded imports should contact the complaints office of Directorate-General for Trade (DG Trade) for advice ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/691 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013, OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 48-70: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2021.153.01.0048.01.ENG

⁽²⁾ trade-defence-complaints@ec.europa.eu