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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.8.2025)

The European Chemicals Industry Action Plan¹, adopted on 8 July 2025, aims to strengthen chemical production in Europe, supporting both new facilities and the modernisation of existing assets.

For this reason, the Commission intends to establish a Critical Chemicals Alliance together with Member States and stakeholders by the end of the year 2025. This Alliance will define criteria for identifying critical molecules and sites which could require dedicated policy support.

Specifically for production sites, the Alliance will assist Member States and regions, in designating EU Critical Chemicals Sites to facilitate investments and improve access to finance for modernisation. This work will take into consideration existing regional clusters.

The EU budget already supports decarbonisation projects through different schemes: Horizon Europe², the Innovation Fund³ and InvestEU⁴. Cohesion funding⁵, both under the current legal framework and the proposed updates, can support projects to modernize and strengthen the chemical industry at the regional level. The new Financial Framework and future national and regional partnership plans⁶ will also aim to this goal. These efforts will also focus on European interregional value chains to ensure regions can sustainably leverage their assets. Under the next Multifinancial Framework (2028-2034)⁷, the proposed Competitiveness Fund⁸ will expectedly also support decarbonisation efforts under one of its policy windows.

¹ COM(2025)530.

² https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

³ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/innovation-fund_en.

⁴ https://investeu.europa.eu/index_en.

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/cohesion-fund_en.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/whats-new/newsroom/17-07-2025-commission-proposes-more-flexible-and-performance-based-cohesion-policy-for-2028-2034_en.

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0570R%2801%29&qid=1753797062248>.

⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025PC0555&qid=1753802586340>.