

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003550/25
to the Commission**

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Marc Germain (S&D), Eric Sargiacomo (S&D), Claire Fita (S&D), Emma Rafowicz (S&D)**
(15 September 2025)

Subject: Situation of the silicon industry in Europe and in France

Since 2014, silicon and its derivatives have been included on the list of critical raw materials. Access to raw materials is essential for the EU economy and silicon metal is particularly crucial for the strategic semiconductor, photovoltaic and other electronic components industries.

In Europe, silicon is processed at industrial sites based in Spain, Germany and France, particularly in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, which has many chemical processing facilities. Today, the electrometallurgical industry is in crisis, with the silicon sector most affected. Ferropem has announced that it is to temporarily lay off workers at its Clavaux, Montricher and Anglefort sites.

As in many sectors, European industries are facing an economic slowdown in the domestic market together with a combination of US tariffs and a surge in Chinese overcapacity, which is undercutting European production by 30-40%.

1. What mechanisms does the Commission intend to put in place to protect the strategic European silicon industry?
2. Does it intend to adopt specific anti-dumping measures?
3. What specific support is it preparing for Europe's industrial SMEs?

Submitted: 15.9.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(13 November 2025)

A safeguard investigation concerning certain alloying elements, including silicon, is in its final stage. Since the investigation is still ongoing, the Commission cannot provide more details at this stage.

In parallel, the Commission is monitoring market developments and industrial capacities across the silicon value chain under the EU Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽¹⁾.

Anti-dumping measures on imports of ferro-silicon from China and Russia are in place since 2007. Trade defence instruments, such as anti-dumping are complaint driven. Thus, the Commission will assess any duly substantiated request and initiate an investigation, if the relevant criteria are met.

The Commission also supports industry by implementing the measures proposed under the Clean Industrial Deal ⁽²⁾ to reinforce the competitiveness and decarbonisation of energy-intensive industries, including the electrometallurgical sector.

Dedicated actions target small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), such as the new EUR 500 million pilot programme with the European Investment Bank (EIB) to provide guarantees for corporate Power Purchase Agreements and a EUR 1.5 billion EIB grids manufacturing package to support EU component producers.

The Deal also establishes industrial transition pathways with attention to SMEs and, through the adopted Chemicals Action Plan ⁽³⁾, introduces SME-focused measures such as the Critical Chemicals Alliance, regulatory simplification to cut administrative burden, cost-relief and de-risking tools, and dedicated innovation hubs to help SMEs modernise, decarbonise and stay competitive.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 establishing a framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of critical raw materials.

⁽²⁾ Communication from the Commission — The Clean Industrial Deal: A joint roadmap for competitiveness and decarbonisation, COM(2025) 85 final.

⁽³⁾ Communication from the Commission — A European Chemicals Industry Action Plan, COM(2025) 530 final.