

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-004123/25
to the Commission
Adrian-George Axinia (ECR), Georgiana Teodorescu (ECR)
(20 October 2025)**

Subject: Disproportionate and anti-competitive consequences of the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA)

The obligations arising from Regulation (EU) 2024/1735 (the Net-Zero Industry Act — NZIA) and its implementing acts appear to be disproportionate and anti-competitive in their effect, and this is something that has been reported in several Member States.

Can the Commission explain:

1. The method used to apportion the CO₂ storage requirements among the Member States under Articles 23 and 20 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1735, given that Romania — despite only contributing around 3% of total CO₂ emissions between 2020 and 2023 — has been allocated a share that is more than 20% of the total EU storage requirement?
2. How it justifies this interference in the rules of the commercial market, given that it is directly imposing requirements on companies subject to corporate governance and protected by EU regulations on fair competition?
3. The adoption of this measure in the absence of a viable CO₂ storage technology — both on-shore (due to the risk of soil contamination) and off-shore (due to technical and regulatory obstacles) — which is liable to result in higher energy costs and further polarisation of the public debate over the ban on Russian gas imports?

Submitted: 20.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(30 January 2026)**

The Commission has adopted Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/1477 ⁽¹⁾ and Commission Decision (EU) 2025/1479 ⁽²⁾ based on and in line with the empowerment and the Union level objective of CO₂ injection capacity set out in Articles 20(1) and 23(12) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1735 ⁽³⁾ adopted by the co-legislators.

Europe has a leading role in CO₂ capture technologies. CO₂ capture projects require corresponding CO₂ storage sites. For the oil and gas companies obligated to invest in CO₂ injection capacity, these projects create the necessary demand for CO₂ storage and present a revenue potential supporting the business case for CO₂ storage.

Further, the Commission is obliged to use the methodology that the co-legislator decided, i.e. the level of the contribution is not linked to total emissions, but oil and gas production in a certain reference period.

In 2025, two CO₂ storage sites in the North Sea successfully started CO₂ injections, one of which took a Financial Investment Decision to deploy a second phase with more capacity. Also, the Commission has reviewed three draft CO₂ storage permits from two Members in 2025.

Any storage site developed in the Union will have to comply with the common rules under Directive 2009/31 EC ⁽⁴⁾ and will thus not pose a threat to environmental or human safety.

The regulation explicitly allows obligated companies to provide storage services where demand is high. However, it is especially the south-eastern region of the European Union where the demand for CO₂ storage exceeds by far even the capacity of projects currently planned.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32025R1477&qid=1766396432868>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32025D1479&qid=1766396474836>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R1735&qid=1766396507168>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/31/oj/eng>.