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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(19.3.2026)

The chemical industry is at the core of the Commission's agenda to strengthen the EU's competitiveness. The European Chemicals Industry Action Plan<sup>1</sup> underlines the strategic role of the sector. Several measures have been taken to support the industry in the short term.

On energy, the Commission extended the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) State aid guidelines for indirect cost compensation to additional chemical sectors to address the carbon cost in electricity prices<sup>2</sup>. This complements the possibility for Member States to grant temporary electricity price relief under the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework<sup>3</sup>, and other measures in the Affordable Energy Action Plan<sup>4</sup> and the European Grids Package<sup>5</sup>.

On simplification, the Commission has proposed several Omnibuses, such as the Investment<sup>6</sup>, Chemical<sup>7</sup> and Environmental Omnibus<sup>8</sup>.

On trade, a dedicated system was introduced in March 2025 to monitor import volumes of certain chemicals. Regarding unfair competition from imports, the Commission launched 25 trade defence investigations on chemicals in the last two years, representing 40% of all new initiations.

The Commission also launched a Critical Chemicals Alliance<sup>9</sup> to work with Member States and industry on key priorities. These include lead markets for European Chemicals, as highlighted in the recent proposal for an Industrial Accelerator Act<sup>10</sup>, and identifying critical molecules and sites requiring urgent investments.

Moreover, the Commission is reviewing the EU ETS with the view to ensure competitiveness, effective carbon leakage protection and increased financial support for investments in industrial transformation.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/european-chemicals-industry-action-plan\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/european-chemicals-industry-action-plan_en).

<sup>2</sup> The newly eligible sectors can already receive compensation as from 2025. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C\\_202600196](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C_202600196).

<sup>3</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C\\_202503602](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:C_202503602).

<sup>4</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0079>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC1005>.

<sup>6</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/publications/omnibus-ii\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/publications/omnibus-ii_en).

<sup>7</sup> [https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/simplification-certain-requirements-and-procedures-chemical-products\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/simplification-certain-requirements-and-procedures-chemical-products_en).

<sup>8</sup> [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/simplification-administrative-burdens-environmental-legislation\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/simplification-administrative-burdens-environmental-legislation_en).

<sup>9</sup> [https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/chemicals/critical-chemicals-alliance\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/chemicals/critical-chemicals-alliance_en).

<sup>10</sup> [https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/industrial-accelerator-act\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/industrial-accelerator-act_en).