

EN

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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.6.2026)

The Commission is closely following the developments in the Middle East as well as their impact on the EU economy and businesses. On 29 April 2026, the Commission adopted the Middle East Crisis Temporary State aid Framework¹ (METSAF) to address the effects of the crisis on particularly affected sectors - namely agriculture, fishery, and transport - where small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are highly represented.

EU State aid rules allow Member States to introduce support schemes to assist companies, including SMEs in various ways, including the *de minimis* Regulation based on which Member States may grant up to EUR 300 000 over any period of 3 years². SMEs can also receive State aid that is exempted from prior notification to the Commission and can be implemented directly by Member States based on one of the State aid block-exemption Regulations³. Energy intensive users can benefit from State aid pursuant to the recently revised Emission Trading System State Aid Guidelines⁴ or the price-support provisions of the clean industrial deal State aid framework⁵.

In addition, the EU is providing support for the decarbonisation of SMEs, including for energy efficiency investments through the InvestEU Programme⁶, *inter alia* via the European Investment Fund's Sustainability Guarantee⁷, as well as the European Investment Bank's 'Energy Efficiency for SMEs' initiative⁸ aiming to provide EUR 17.5 billion in financing to help up to 350 000 SMEs lower their energy costs and reduce their carbon footprint.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202602593.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202302831.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02014R0651-20230701>;
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/state-aid-agricultural-and-forestry-sectors.html>;
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:4646029>;
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32022R2586>.

⁴ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020XC0925\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52020XC0925(01)).

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/clean-industrial-deal-state-aid-framework.html>.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=LEGISSUM:4516649>.

⁷ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0713\(02\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0713(02)).

⁸ <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2025-331-more-than-350000-european-companies-to-get-energy-efficiency-support-under-major-eu-financing-initiative>.