

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-002257/26
to the Commission
Jörgen Warborn (PPE)
(3 June 2026)

Subject: Geographical scope of the Union equivalence clause in the Industrial Accelerator Act

The Commission's proposal for a set of measures to accelerate industrial capacity ('Industrial Accelerator Act', 2026/0068 (COD)) includes requirements for contracting authorities to reach certain minimum EU origin quotas in selected product categories, an approach known as 'European preference'. However, in order to honour international obligations in the field of trade policy, there is an equivalence clause that treats goods from partner countries with which the Union has concluded a customs union or free trade agreement, or from countries that are parties to the Agreement on Government Procurement, as being equivalent to goods of Union origin. This would cover around 90 countries in total.

However, at the joint meeting on the Industrial Accelerator Act organised by Parliament's committees on trade, industry and the internal market on 2 June 2026, the Commission's Executive Vice-President Stéphane Séjourné argued that the equivalence clause on EU origin would apply to only a very limited group of countries — no more than around 20. As the equivalence clause is an integral part of the act in question, with significant implications for individual companies as well as for contracting authorities and for the EU's relationship with global partners, there is an urgent need to clarify the exact geographical scope of the clause.

In the light of the foregoing:

Which third countries would — on the basis of their current status under bilateral or multilateral agreements in force — enjoy 'equivalent to Union origin' status pursuant to the equivalence clause laid down in Article 8 of the proposal for an Industrial Accelerator Act?

Submitted: 3.6.2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(15 July 2026)

The Commission is committed to an open, rules-based and reciprocal trading system. The proposal for an Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA) ⁽¹⁾ is designed to strengthen the EU's industrial resilience and competitiveness in line with the EU's international commitments.

Article 8(1) of the IAA provides that with respect to the EU origin requirements referred to in Article 11 of the IAA, content originating in third countries with which the EU has concluded an agreement establishing a free trade area or a customs union, or that are parties to the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA), where relevant obligations of the EU exist under that agreement, shall be deemed of EU origin.

Article 8(2) of the IAA provides for the possibility to exclude, in whole or in part, a third country from the scope of paragraph 1, under certain conditions.

The Commission notes that the application of Article 8 to specific third countries would depend on the status of the relevant agreements and, with respect to the GPA, on the existence of relevant commitments in the area of public procurement, as well as on the application of a possible delegated act under Article 8(2) of the IAA to specific third countries.

The Commission will continue to ensure that the EU's openness is matched by effective reciprocity and that European industry is not placed at a structural disadvantage where third countries restrict market access.

⁽¹⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/industrial-accelerator-act_en.