

**Question for written answer E-013112/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Adina-Ioana Vălean (ALDE)**

Subject: European Union steel industry and the EU emissions trading system

In its June 2013 action plan for the steel sector, the Commission presents measures to support the sector by focusing on its competitiveness in a global market and on fostering jobs, growth and innovation.

At the same time, however, the Commission proposes to reform the emissions trading system (ETS) by introducing a mechanism for 'back-loading', which artificially raises prices for allowances, thereby intervening in an instrument that was intended to be fully market-based.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of this contradiction between policies at a time when the European steel industry faces downward trends in all its main customer groups, from automotive and mechanical engineering to construction and domestic goods production?
2. Given that the European steel industry's competitors do not have to face such cost increases, how does the Commission plan to tackle this competitive disadvantage?
3. Given the effects of the economic crisis in all sectors, and especially on high-consumption industries such as those in the steel sector, how is the Commission planning to encourage this sector to grow and avoid relocation?