

**Question for written answer E-001707/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU industrial policy

Article 173(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states that the Union and the Member States shall ensure that the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of the Union's industry exist and that their action shall be aimed, inter alia, at encouraging an environment favourable to initiative and to the development of businesses.

Nonetheless, the lack of ambition and clear results-oriented strategy in the EU's industrial policy, together with excessive red tape and stringent environmental rules, is leading more and more industries to outsource manufacturing abroad, chiefly to Asia.

Both the COVID-19 crisis and the blockage of the Suez Canal are shining a light on European nations' weakness owing to their overdependence on imports of industrial products.

1. Is the Commission working on proposals to amend industrial policy in the light of the lessons learned from these crises?
2. Is the Commission working on proposals to reduce bureaucracy and administrative burdens on businesses in the Union?