

**Question for written answer E-003759/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Guidelines on regional State aid

On 29 April 2021 the Commission adopted guidelines on regional State aid<sup>1</sup> that set out the rules based on which Member States may grant companies State aid in order to support economic development in disadvantaged areas of the EU, while at the same time ensuring Member States are operating on a level playing field. The revised guidelines will come into force on 1 January 2022.

The nine provisions for defining just-transition affected territories as non-predefined areas include the possibility, by way of derogation to the general principle of State aid rules, for large enterprises to receive support<sup>2</sup>.

Point 10 of the guidelines would seem categorically to exclude the coal and steel sectors, while point 7 considers 'investments' that contribute to decarbonisation of production processes (including in energy-intensive industries such as steel) to be possible.

Can the Commission clarify the following:

1. Are large enterprises only able to benefit from financial support under the Just Transition Fund, by way of derogation to the general principle of State aid rules, when this support will be used for the enterprise's economic diversification?
2. What conditions are necessary for steel to be included in the aid scheme and which steel sector decarbonisation measures would be eligible for aid?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0429\(01\)&from=EN](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0429(01)&from=EN)

<sup>2</sup> Point 14