

**Question for written answer E-003191/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Reindustrialisation of the EU and statements by former Chief Competition Economist

In an interview with Belgian daily newspaper *L'Echo* on 4 August 2023, former Directorate-General for Competition Chief Economist Pierre Régibeau made some illuminating comments on EU leaders' ideological refusal to promote a reindustrialisation policy for the continent:

- 'If not for security reasons, there is no reason to keep certain economic activities in Europe';
- 'If European heavy industry disappears, then so be it, because that is how it has to be. What good would it do to produce basic steel here if we can buy it in Indonesia for a third of the price?';
- 'Why make wind turbines in Europe if we can get them somewhere else for half the price? Europe should be grateful to those countries for this gift.'

Does the Commission share the views of the former Directorate-General for Competition's Chief Economist on the apparent futility of a real reindustrialisation policy for the European Union?

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