Question for written answer E-000163/2024
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Solutions to halt the historical decline of the European chemical industry

Chemicals can be found in almost all strategic value chains. They are essential for more than 95 % of manufactured goods. The European Union is the second largest producer of chemicals.

However, competition from China in particular reduced the EU's share of global sales from 27 % in 2002 to 14 % in 2022. Over the same period, the share of EU chemical companies' spending on new projects in Asia increased by 50 %. In 2012, the EU chemical industry's global trade surplus was almost EUR 50 billion[1], compared to just EUR 2.5 billion in 2022.

According to figures from the European Chemical Industry Council, in the first nine months of 2023, EU chemicals production fell by 10.6 % in comparison to 2022[2]. This further decline is attributed to the war in Ukraine, high energy costs, rising interest rates, inflation, but also the deadweight effect of the IRA on the US chemical industry[3].

What urgent solutions will the Commission put in place to defend the European chemical industry, one of its key economic sectors?

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1 'Nouveau record pour la chimie européenne', *L'Usine Nouvelle*, 14 April 2013.
2 'La mutation forcée de la chimie européenne', *Les Échos*, 14 December 2023.
3 Inflation Reduction Act.