

**Priority question for written answer P-000460/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
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**Subject:** A stable supply chain for the steel industry in the European Union

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities of European industry's strategic value chains, while the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has revealed the EU's overdependence on energy imports. In this context, it is important for the critical raw materials act to ensure secure and sustainable access to critical raw materials for European industry.

In April 2022, the European Union adopted an embargo on Russian coal, including coking coal – one of the EU's critical raw materials and a key ingredient for steel production. Russia was the third largest exporter of coking coal to the EU. Moreover, Russia was the second and Ukraine the third largest source of steel imports for the EU. As a result, the European steel industry has to fill a significant gap to maintain production and meet the demand in times of spiking energy prices in Europe.

Given this:

1. What measures does the Commission plan to take to ensure a predictable framework and a level-playing field for the already struggling European steel industry?
2. Does the Commission plan to maintain coking coal's status as a critical raw material, which will contribute to reliable and stable domestic production of this key ingredient for steel-making?

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