

**Priority question for written answer P-002472/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Statements by economist Pierre Régibeau on job losses in heavy industry

On 4 August 2023, an interview with Pierre Régibeau, chief economist of the Commission's Directorate-General for Competition (DG COMP) until 31 July 2023, was published. Régibeau believes that if European heavy industry disappears owing to the rules set as part of Green Deal measures, so be it.

DG COMP's chief economist helps the Commission to assess the economic impact of its actions, provides independent guidance on economics methodologies and econometrics in the application of EU competition rules and has a hand in individual competition cases and in the development of general policy tools.

Some Commissioners have said that Régibeau's statements do not represent the Commission's policy in any way, but formal denials of the Commission's position have not been forthcoming thus far, which has given rise to serious concerns in heavy industry and in the area of employment.

In the light of the above, does the Commission plan to:

1. Clarify its position on any heavy-industry job losses caused by Green Deal policies?
2. Carry out studies and analyses to assess the impact that the Green Deal will have on employment?
3. Introduce an 'action plan' to safeguard European heavy industries such as steel, base chemicals, cement and glass?

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