

Simulated Candidate Response

Subject: Briefing on Environmental Implications of the Clean Industrial Deal

The Clean Industrial Deal (CID) Communication outlines the EU's strategy to reconcile industrial competitiveness with climate neutrality goals. From an environmental policy perspective, the Communication aligns well with broader EU Green Deal ambitions, but several aspects merit critical attention.

Key environmental provisions include the integration of circular economy principles into industrial supply chains, the promotion of "made in Europe" clean technologies, and the acceleration of permitting procedures for green infrastructure. Additionally, the CID emphasizes public procurement mechanisms that favour low-carbon, circular products, and proposes to strengthen carbon pricing via CBAM and ETS revenues.

Notably, the planned *Circular Economy Act* (by 2026) and the creation of a *European Critical Raw Materials Centre* signal efforts to reduce resource extraction impacts and improve material efficiency. The proposal to launch an *Industrial Decarbonisation Bank* also reflects a shift toward green investment mobilisation.

However, the CID places considerable emphasis on competitiveness and industry-led solutions, with relatively limited discussion on regulatory enforcement or binding environmental safeguards. There is a risk that accelerated permitting could dilute environmental assessments. Furthermore, the proposed Clean Transition Dialogues and trade partnerships may favour flexibility over stringency, depending on implementation.

From DG ENV's perspective, the Communication offers a strategic opportunity to mainstream circularity and green conditionality into industrial and investment policy. However, cross-DG coordination will be essential to ensure that environmental standards are upheld, particularly in areas of resource extraction, industrial emissions, and biodiversity safeguards.

In sum, while the CID represents a step toward aligning industrial and environmental goals, careful monitoring and regulatory follow-up will be key to ensuring the environmental dimension is not subordinated to economic competitiveness.

Generic EPSO Scoring Checklist (for Self or Peer Review)

Criterion	Checklist
Content	Are all elements addressed (summary, assessment, risks)? Are points relevant to the brief?
Structure	Is the text logically organised? Are paragraphs used effectively?
Style & Register	Is tone professional, concise, and Commission-appropriate?
Language	Is grammar accurate? Is vocabulary formal and fluent (e.g. “mainstreaming”, “synergies”)?

EPSO Evaluation of the assignment according to anchors

Criteria	Score (out of 10)	Comments
Content	9	Covers all key points: summary, integration with policy, risks, opportunities. Slightly lacks quantitative reference.
Structure	10	Clear introduction, logical paragraphing, concise conclusion. Excellent coherence.
Style and Register	9	Tone is professional and appropriate for internal use; could slightly benefit from more actionable language.
Language	9	High-level vocabulary, fluent, formal. Minor room for stylistic refinement.

Total Score: 37 / 40

◆ Strengths and Weaknesses

☒ Strengths:

- **Comprehensive summary** of environmental implications across all CID dimensions.
- **Strategic tone** that mimics internal briefings — includes opportunities and risks.
- **Excellent structure** with clear flow and strong signposting (e.g. “Notably”, “However”, “In sum”).
- **Balanced assessment**, not just a summary — it evaluates.

Weaknesses:

- Lacks **specific references** to measurable goals or targets from the CID (e.g. no mention of 2040 emission reduction target).

- Could enhance the **action-oriented value** for the Head of Unit — e.g., suggest follow-up actions for DG ENV.
- Slight underuse of **EU policy language** like “mainstreaming”, “environmental acquis”, or “no net harm”.

Use the template guide we provide to hit all **anchor criteria** (Content, Structure, Style, Language) and remain within the **40-minute/1-page constraint**. It's ideal for training and timed practice.

EPSO Written Test Response Template

Use Case: Briefing Note for Internal Commission Audience (e.g., Head of Unit)

Subject: [Insert Clear and Informative Subject Line]
(e.g., “*Environmental Implications of the Clean Industrial Deal*”)

[1. Introduction – Context and Purpose]

2–3 sentences

- Briefly state the context of the Communication/document.
- Clarify the objective of the note from your policy angle.

Example:

The Commission’s Communication “Delivering the Clean Industrial Deal” outlines a strategy to reconcile industrial competitiveness with climate goals. This note assesses its environmental implications and relevance to DG Environment priorities.

[2. Summary of Key Relevant Points]

1 paragraph

- Identify the most relevant elements of the document in relation to the environment.
- Focus on actions, proposals, timelines, or instruments that affect environmental policy.

Example:

The Communication proposes actions to scale up clean technologies, streamline permitting for green infrastructure, integrate circular economy principles, and introduce green public procurement standards. The launch of the Industrial Decarbonisation Bank and revised state aid rules further aim to support industry’s green transition.

[3. Assessment: Strengths & Opportunities]

1 paragraph

- Highlight areas where the proposal supports EU environmental/climate goals.
- Mention coherence with EU Green Deal, circular economy, etc.
- Use EU policy terms: mainstreaming, synergies, sustainability, resilience.

Example:

The CID supports mainstreaming environmental objectives in industrial policy by aligning with the circular economy agenda and fostering green innovation. Public procurement measures and investment tools present opportunities to enhance the environmental performance of EU industries.

[4. Assessment: Risks & Limitations]

1 paragraph

- Identify shortcomings, implementation risks, or vague aspects.
- Raise DG ENV concerns: e.g. biodiversity, environmental safeguards, impact assessments.

Example:

The focus on competitiveness and expedited permitting may risk weakening environmental safeguards. Limited detail on enforcement mechanisms and potential trade-offs between industrial acceleration and environmental integrity merit further attention.

[5. Conclusion & Recommendation]

2–3 sentences

- Summarise the strategic relevance.
- If appropriate, suggest a next step or internal follow-up.

Example:

The Communication presents a strategic opportunity for DG ENV to influence the green orientation of industrial policy. Close coordination across DGs will be essential to ensure environmental safeguards remain robust during implementation.