Question for written answer E-002942/2024
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Extending CBAM to furniture fittings

Under the Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), the EU has created instruments to further reduce its emissions. However, in their current form, these rules create significant competitive disadvantages, particularly in the metal sector, both in the EU and globally.

The current design of the ETS means that the price of steel in the EU is expected to be significantly higher than the global price level. With a carbon price of EUR 150 per tonne, the price of steel increases by around EUR 240 per tonne. Depending on the steel grade, this represents an increase of about 35 % compared to steel on the global market.

Material costs account for a significant proportion of the total cost of a product for many manufacturers – for example, for furniture fittings, they account for about 50 % of the final product cost (meaning that the ETS accounts for almost 20 % of the product cost). This thus clearly creates unfair market conditions vis-à-vis non-EU manufacturers.

1. Is the Commission considering including material-intensive metal sectors, such as the furniture fitting sector, in the CBAM to ensure a level playing field in the EU?

2. In its view, what can be done in future to ensure that these sectors also enjoy fair competitive conditions on the global markets vis-à-vis non-EU manufacturers?

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