

Question for written answer E-003295/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Piotr Müller (ECR)

Subject: Funding foreign carbon credits rather than modernising Europe

The Commission is proposing that, from 2036 onwards, carbon credits from third countries be eligible under the ETS. This would mean channelling European funds into projects outside the EU, at a time when European industry is grappling with high energy prices, insufficient grid capacity and energy storage shortfalls, not to mention the huge costs of decarbonisation. It is difficult to square this proposal with the proclaimed goal of reindustrialising Europe. Instead of using funds to upgrade Europe's steelworks, chemical plants and power stations, the EU may end up paying to bring down emissions outside the EU (where reductions are often difficult to verify), with no infrastructure, technology or jobs created in Europe.

In light of the above:

1. Why is the Commission proposing to spend funds from Europe's ETS outside the EU, rather than allocating them in full to modernising Europe's industry, grids and energy storage facilities?
2. How will it ensure that foreign credits deliver real, additional and lasting emissions reductions and are not the subject of double-counting?
3. In whose interest is it proposing the transfer of European funds to third countries for the purchase of carbon credits, given that this solution brings no long-term benefit in terms of investment to European industry but risks supporting economies and businesses in direct competition with EU producers?

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