

**Question for written answer E-003724/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Katri Kulmuni (Renew)

Subject: Eligibility of bioenergy technologies for the Innovation Fund 2026 (IF26) heat auction

On 22 May 2026, the Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action published the draft terms and conditions for the upcoming IF26 heat auction. The draft terms and conditions exclude biomass use for heat production from the technologies that are eligible for auction.

Different types of bioenergy options, such as solid biomass fuels, biogas and biomethane, are considered renewable energy sources under the Renewable Energy Directive (RED). Their use in industrial heat applications can provide cost-effective decarbonisation solutions, particularly where electrification or other renewable energy technologies are not technically possible or economically competitive. Meanwhile, around 75 % of the heat used for industrial processes still comes from fossil fuels, highlighting the scale of the decarbonisation efforts required.

1. What is the Commission's justification for excluding viable technologies such as bioenergy from the auction and disregarding the principle of technology neutrality?
2. Why does the Commission not consider making bioenergy technologies eligible for the IF26 heat auction, provided that the sustainability requirements of the RED are met?
3. How does the Commission justify excluding a cost-competitive suite of solutions that could, in certain cases, deliver CO₂ savings at a lower cost (EUR/t) than other options in a public auction scheme?

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