

**Question for written answer E-003886/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Ineffective mechanisms for releasing allowances in the EU ETS

High CO₂ emission allowance prices increase electricity prices for industry. According to the Vice-President of PGE, Poland's largest energy group, ETS costs can account for up to 50% of the electricity price for Polish industry.

The EU reserve has two ways to release allowances. Neither of them has worked so far: the thresholds are too far removed from the current situation to help companies grappling with high energy costs.

The first mechanism requires the number of allowances in circulation to fall below 400 million. At the end of 2025, there were 1.02 billion. The Commission proposes lowering this threshold further, by 4% per year from 2029. According to its impact assessment, under the proposed option, the first release would only take place in 2036.

The second mechanism is triggered when the average price of allowances over a six-month period exceeds 2.4 times the average for the previous two years. In September 2026, the average price was around EUR 76 per tonne, while the price required to trigger the mechanism was around EUR 170.

1. Why is the Commission proposing to lower the threshold, which will hinder the early release of allowances when electricity prices are already a huge problem for industry?
2. Why in the ETS2, which covers fuels and heating, has a price threshold to trigger the release of allowances been set at EUR 45 per tonne (in 2020 prices), while the Commission is not proposing a similar threshold for energy and industry?

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