

**Question for written answer E-003925/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Extension of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism's scope to activated carbon amid the EU's import dependence on China

The Commission's 2025 review of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) assessed extending the mechanism to additional EU Emissions Trading System sectors and goods, and yet one strategically important material has been overlooked.

Activated carbon underpins critical infrastructure and industrial supply chains across the EU and is essential for the treatment of drinking water and wastewater, air and gas purification, food and pharmaceutical production, and industrial emissions control. However, the EU market remains dangerously dependent on imports from non-EU countries, particularly of coal-based activated carbon, with around four-fifths of 2024 imports originating in Asia, and China alone accounting for approximately 45 % of imports.

In practice, through this dependence, much of the material's production is outsourced to a country with no equivalent standards, while EU industry loses ground to less regulated producers.

1. Was activated carbon (CN 3802 10 00) considered in the 2025 assessment of additional goods and sectors for possible inclusion in CBAM? If so, what was the outcome?
2. If it was not considered, does the Commission intend to assess it in a future CBAM scope review, given its production emissions, the EU's dependence on China, and the risk of emissions relocating there?
3. If activated carbon meets the relevant criteria, will the Commission assess the technical requirements for inclusion in CBAM, including product definitions, embedded emissions methodologies and default values?

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