

Question for written answer E-004062/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: The declining competitiveness of the Polish ceramic tile industry and production growth in third countries due to costs related to the ETS

Reports in the Polish media point to the troubled state of the ceramic tile sector. Manufacturers in Poland are laying off workers, while the production costs of glazed tiles and terracotta have risen significantly. Furthermore, cheaper alternatives from third countries, particularly India, are replacing Polish products in DIY retailers. According to recent data, domestic tile sales fell by 10% in 2025, while sales of imported tiles grew by 20%.

By its very nature, the tile manufacturing industry is highly energy-intensive and has negligible scope for reducing its energy consumption. This stems from the heavy reliance on gas, alongside limited use of renewables due to the constant energy demands of an uninterrupted production cycle. Despite operating under similar technological conditions, producers in third countries, including India, do not face the financial burdens arising from ETS obligations.

These circumstances present a genuine risk of production relocating outside the EU. Consequently, rather than global emissions being curbed, it leads to them being increased in third countries whilst simultaneously undermining the European ceramic tile industry and destroying jobs.

1. How does the Commission view the argument that ETS-related costs for the ceramic tile sector are driving a reduction in EU production alongside a concurrent rise in imports from third countries, which in practice means relocating emissions outside the EU instead of actually reducing them?
2. In order to limit the relocation of production outside the EU and ensure a level playing field between EU producers and those from third countries, particularly India, is the Commission considering an increase in the free allocation of CO₂ emission allowances for the European tile sector?

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