

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002327/25
to the Commission**

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(10 June 2025)

Subject: Industrial Emissions Directive — BREF for the ceramic manufacturing industry

In November 2024, in the context of the application of the revised Industrial Emissions Directive, the Commission presented the draft Best Available Techniques Reference Document (BREF) for the ceramic manufacturing industry.

The document establishes mandatory emissions and environmental performance levels, as well as the techniques to achieve them, constituting the basis for operational permits for ceramic manufacturing installations in the EU.

Although the revised Industrial Emissions Directive introduces significant changes to permitting processes, with stricter emissions limits and ambitious decarbonisation and environmental targets, it also offers accessible and modern techniques, which would ensure viable technical and economic conditions in the ceramic sector.

In the light of the above:

1. Has the Commission properly assessed the impact on the ceramic industry of complying with the proposed targets, taking into consideration the heterogeneous nature of the sector and the investment needed to implement the required techniques?
2. Can the Commission clarify the criteria for classifying the listed techniques (e.g. the electrification of continuous and intermittent kilns) as best available techniques, given their limited availability, the elevated costs of implementation and the absence of reliable data on their performance and related emissions?

Submitted: 10.6.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(30 July 2025)

The Best Available Techniques (BAT) Reference for the ceramics industry (CER BREF) is 18 years old. Its review incorporates the technical progresses achieved since its initial publication and elements of the revised Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) ⁽¹⁾, e.g. circular economy or decarbonisation.

IED Article 3(10) defines BAT and highlights that the economic and technical viability of a technique is a fundamental element. To establish BAT, the Commission employs a rigorous evaluation process involving comprehensive data collection and analysis of environmental, technical as well as economic aspects, also considering the various production processes.

Key considerations ⁽²⁾ include environmental benefits, performance data, cross-media effects, economics, technical applicability, and implementation drivers.

For reviewing the CER BREF, the Commission is assisted by a technical working group (TWG) of nearly 200 experts from Member States, industry, and environmental non-governmental organisations promoting environmental protection and human health.

This TWG provides crucial input on the economic and technical viability of proposed BAT and is currently helping the Commission reviewing and analysing the data underpinning the draft BAT conclusions for the ceramic industry.

The November 2024 draft of the BREF aimed at collecting comments from the TWG with the objective of improving it. A data assessment workshop took place from 24 to 26 June 2025 with all involved stakeholders.

Based on the outcomes of this workshop and further discussions with the various parties, a new version of the draft will be published, as part of the normal process and before the final TWG meeting (tentatively scheduled for November 2025).

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/1785 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 April 2024 amending Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) and Council Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste, OJ L, 2024/1785, 15.7.2024.

⁽²⁾ Commission implementing decision laying down rules concerning guidance on the drawing up of BAT reference documents, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32012D0119>.