

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004623/25
to the Commission
Peter Agius (PPE)
(19 November 2025)

Subject: Malta's projected emissions increase from incinerators in Magħtab and EU Emissions Trading System allowances

The Climate Action Progress Report 2025 shows that Malta is the only EU Member State projected to emit more greenhouse gases in 2030 than in 2005, with levels expected to rise by around 30%.

At the same time, the Government of Malta intends to commission two incinerators in Magħtab with the capacity to incinerate up to 192 000 tonnes of municipal waste annually for the first, and a capacity of 14 000 tonnes of waste per year for the second, a hazardous waste incinerator.

1. Given that these incinerators are expected to exceed the 20 MW threshold, does the Commission expect the emissions from these incinerators to be included in the EU Emissions Trading System's (EU ETS) reporting and monitoring obligations?
2. Given the EU's commitment to the polluter pays principle, does the Commission envisage that the emissions from such incinerators will have to be paid in EU ETS allowances in the coming years?
3. Is the Commission concerned that these incinerators will make it even harder for Malta to meet its climate goals in the future?

Submitted: 19.11.2025

Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(8 January 2026)

Achieving the EU's 2050 net-zero climate target requires all economic sectors to contribute to decarbonisation. Emissions from municipal waste incineration (MWI) installations are currently mainly covered under the Effort Sharing Regulation ⁽¹⁾ and subject to national emissions reduction targets and measures but have grown since 2005.

Some waste incinerators are currently already covered under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS), such as industrial waste incinerators, and municipal waste-to-energy installations in some Member States ⁽²⁾.

Under the 2023 revision of the EU ETS, all MWI installations above the 20 megawatts threshold are required to monitor and report emissions from 2024 onwards.

As part of the upcoming review of the EU ETS Directive scheduled for July 2026, the Commission is required to assess the potential inclusion of MWI installations and the possibility of including other waste management processes, in particular landfills, which are responsible for the largest share of waste sector emissions ⁽³⁾.

The work on the impact assessment is currently ongoing. In the context of the stakeholder consultation 51% of respondents were in favour and 30% opposed the inclusion of MWI into the EU ETS ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission is further assessing the impact of a potential extension of the EU ETS to waste management processes in terms of incentivising cost-effective emission reductions, ensuring a level playing field between sectors and Member States, and contributing to the circular economy, proper waste management and minimising landfilling.

It is also assessing the scope, design elements and abatement options in case of an extension. The results of the impact assessment will feed into the legislative proposal for the EU ETS review.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/842 of 30 May 2018 on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and amending Regulation (EU) No 525/2013.

⁽²⁾ Denmark, Lithuania and Sweden have included municipal waste incineration (MWI) installations in their national implementation of the EU ETS, while Germany included waste incineration installations in its national emissions trading system.

⁽³⁾ Review clause in Article 30(7) of the EU ETS Directive: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02003L0087-20240301>.

⁽⁴⁾ Details on the process and outcome of the open public consultation can be consulted on: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14549-EU-emissions-trading-system-for-maritime-aviation-and-stationary-installations-and-market-stability-reserve-review/public-consultation_en.