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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra

On behalf of the European Commission

(17.4.2026)

1. The Commission has no plans to suspend the European Union Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The Commission is accelerating its work on the upcoming review of the ETS, notably to set out the emissions cap and decarbonisation trajectory beyond 2030, in line with the 2040 emissions reduction target agreed by the co-legislators. This will provide more emissions space for industry compared to the legislation currently in force.

2. The Commission is taking steps to lower energy and business costs in the context of the Clean Industrial Deal and its Affordable Energy Action Plan. Examples include the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework supporting industries' energy costs and decarbonisation, and the European Grids Package. By accelerating the expansion and interconnection of EU electricity grids, it will further increase the integration of EU electricity markets, already delivering approximately EUR 34 billion in annual benefits to consumers. To shield consumers from gas-driven price spikes, tools such as Power Purchase Agreements with renewable generators are encouraged under the Electricity Market Design.

Furthermore, industry decarbonisation and consequent long-term reduction of energy costs is supported by the substantial revenues generated through the EU ETS.

3. Protection against carbon leakage risk is provided by free allocation and, for a number of sectors, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), which is gradually replacing the free allocation of allowances for these sectors. In December 2025, the Commission proposed measures to further strengthen CBAM. The future of carbon leakage protection under EU ETS will be assessed as part of the Impact Assessment accompanying the ETS review.