

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000931/26
to the Commission**

**Rody Tolassy (Pfe), André Rougé (Pfe), Marie-Luce Brasier-Clain (Pfe), Valérie Deloge (Pfe), Pierre Pimpie (Pfe),
Julie Rechagneux (Pfe), Philippe Olivier (Pfe)**
(5 March 2026)

Subject: Economic consequences of the carbon border adjustment mechanism for the outermost regions

Regulation (EU) 2023/956 establishing a carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) aims to tackle carbon leakage and bring imports into line with the EU's environmental requirements. However, the application of its environmental objectives raises concerns about its economic and social consequences in the outermost regions (ORs).

The construction and fertiliser industries, which are essential for infrastructure development, housing construction and the agricultural sovereignty of the ORs, depend very heavily on imports of materials that are highly exposed to the CBAM, in particular cement, steel and fertilisers.

In regions already facing geographical remoteness, narrow markets, structural additional costs and a persistent high cost of living, the potential increase of costs linked to the CBAM could exacerbate economic tensions, hinder public and private investment and undermine the development and territorial cohesion objectives.

1. Can the Commission explain how it intends to take into account the specific characteristics of the ORs, established in Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, when implementing the CBAM?
2. Is it considering adaptation, compensation or exemption mechanisms to prevent the instrument from becoming an additional factor contributing to the economic and social fragility of those strategic EU territories?

Supporter ⁽¹⁾

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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(16 July 2026)

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) ⁽¹⁾ is a key instrument of the EU's climate policy. It aims to prevent the risk of carbon leakage and support the achievement of the EU's ambitious climate targets.

Therefore, CBAM's uniform application throughout the EU's customs territory is essential for its coherence, environmental efficiency, and compliance with international rules.

In 2027, the Commission will present its assessment of the CBAM on the basis of the results of the first year of implementation during its definitive period.

It will inform measures that, where appropriate, could be taken in this regard, supported by detailed data to ensure that they do not undermine the fundamental principles of the CBAM.

The Commission is fully aware of the particular challenges faced by the outermost regions and is committed to the implementation of policies adapted to their realities, in line with Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The Commission also recognised in the Fertilisers Action Plan ⁽²⁾ that farmers in the outermost regions are faced with additional costs when acquiring fertilisers and aims to address some of the specific challenges of farmers in the outermost regions as part of a new strategy for the outermost regions, and its accompanying regulatory package, to be adopted in summer 2026.

In addition, the Commission will continue to mobilise instruments for economic, structural and financial support to assist the outermost regions in their green transition while preserving their economic and social development.

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⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02023R0956-20251020>.
⁽²⁾ COM(2026) 310 final.