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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
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On 1 April 2026, the Commission announced the first concrete measure to strengthen the Emissions Trading System (ETS), proposing an amendment to the Market Stability Reserve (the ETS's built-in stabilisation measure)¹ reinforcing its role as a buffer to support market stability better equip the reserve to respond to future market developments, including supply tightness.

The ETS accounts for around 11% of retail electricity prices for industry and 5% for households, remaining smaller than fuel costs, network charges, and taxes. A comprehensive ETS review, to be presented by July 2026, will strengthen the carbon market, and ensure a fair, cost-effective contribution to the 2040 climate target.

On 22 April 2026, the Commission presented the AccelerateEU Communication² outlining immediate, targeted actions for Member States to deliver rapid and lasting relief to households and industry facing high energy prices. It also includes structural measures to improve energy efficiency and accelerate electrification by reducing the four components of energy bills-supply costs, network charges, taxes, and carbon costs - also in the longer term.

The crisis highlights that long-term affordability depends on accelerating the clean energy transition. Scaling up domestic clean energy and energy efficiency will reduce fossil fuel imports and strengthen Europe's energy independence. In this context, the Commission has launched reflections on a post-2030 framework, including a revision of the Governance Regulation together with the renewable energy and energy efficiency frameworks to modernise the Energy Union and climate action.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_666.

² https://energy.ec.europa.eu/strategy/accelerateeu-strengthen-eu-energy-resilience_en.