

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002095/26
to the Commission
Sandra Gómez López (S&D), Leire Pajín (S&D)
(20 May 2026)**

Subject: Review of EU ETS benchmarks and support for a tailored methodology for the European ceramics industry

Following the concerns expressed by the European ceramics industry — including ASCER (the Spanish Ceramic Tile Manufacturer's Association) — and other industry representatives and regional authorities in the Joint Statement For The Future Of European Ceramics ⁽¹⁾, as well as the initiatives taken by Spain and other Member States to adapt the EU ETS to the technological reality of energy-intensive sectors that still have limited decarbonisation alternatives, the Commission has noted that it may review the applicable methodology and consider more sector-specific benchmarks. Given the strategic importance of the ceramics industry for regions such as Castellón and for European industrial autonomy:

1. How does the Commission intend to consider the contributions of Member States and the sectors concerned in order to ensure more realistic benchmarks adapted to the technological constraints of the ceramics industry, and what is the timetable for these new benchmarks to be adopted and to enter into force?
2. Is the Commission considering setting a specific benchmark for ceramic tiles and related products that better reflects actual production conditions and avoids a disproportionate impact on competitiveness and employment?
3. What measures will the Commission take to prevent carbon leakage in hard-to-decarbonise sectors such as ceramics?

Submitted: 20.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(1 September 2026)**

To address concerns expressed by a number of Member States and industry, on 17 July 2026 ⁽¹⁾ the Commission adopted at the same time as the ETS revision a separate proposal aimed at increasing the free allocation determined on the basis of the fallback benchmarks, which are the most relevant benchmarks for the ceramics sector.

This provides additional free allocation in the order of EUR 6 billion for the period 2026-2030. The Commission also confirmed the launching of the ETS Investment Booster, a EUR 30 billion financial support scheme.

The aim is to finance decarbonisation projects, facilitating access for small and medium-sized enterprises and targeting certain industrial processes where tailored decarbonisation pathways are needed.

The proposal covers allocations relating to the period 2026-2030 and becomes applicable as early as possible if endorsed by the co-legislators. The Commission will work to facilitate an early agreement between co-legislators on this proposal.

To better reflect available emissions reduction capacities in different industrial sectors for the longer term, the ETS revision proposal foresees a delegation of power for the Commission to establish sector-specific heat and fuel fallback benchmarks for the period after 2031. The proposal also reduces the maximum update rate of Union-wide benchmarks to ensure predictability.

To prevent carbon leakage, the proposal for the 2026-2030 top-up is designed to avoid the application of the cross-sectoral correction factor, which would otherwise trigger a harmonised reduction of free allocation. For the period after 2031, it is proposed to increase the free allocation buffer from 3% to 4% of the total quantity of allowances.

¹ https://portal.ascer.es/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Joint_Document_Ceramics_ETS_EN_Final-for-signature_04.pdf

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1596.