

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003578/25
to the Commission
Tobiasz Bocheński (ECR)
(17 September 2025)**

Subject: High energy costs for energy-intensive industries in Poland

Energy-intensive industries in Poland (metallurgy, cement works and the chemical industry) operate at significantly higher energy costs than similar sectors outside the EU. The ETS system, the lack of sufficient compensation and limited access to cheap energy from renewable sources are causing Polish plants to lose their competitiveness.

1. What measures is the Commission taking to mitigate the negative effects of the ETS system on energy-intensive industries in Member States such as Poland, where the energy mix does not yet allow for a full transition to renewable energy sources?
2. Is the Commission considering altering the mechanisms for compensating for indirect ETS costs in order to increase their effectiveness for companies in Central and Eastern Europe?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(21 October 2025)**

Safeguarding the competitiveness of European businesses by ensuring effective protection against the risk of carbon leakage is at the heart of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS).

Businesses benefit from free allocation of allowances as well as investment support from ETS revenues — from national budgets, the Innovation Fund and the Modernisation Fund ⁽¹⁾ as well as REPowerEU ⁽²⁾.

As part of the Clean Industrial Deal, the Commission has announced its intention to strengthen the Innovation Fund and propose an Industrial Decarbonisation Bank, aiming for EUR 100 billion in funding.

On top of this, Member States can already use ETS revenues to provide aid for the carbon cost passed on to energy-intensive industries in their electricity bills. 15 Member States did so in 2024, including Poland, where 11% of 2023 ETS revenues (EUR 615 million) was used for this purpose.

Industrial competitiveness is driven by the energy transition. Power sector emissions in the ETS have decreased year on year with an increasing deployment of renewable energy sources. Poland in 2024 recorded the highest historic share of renewables in energy production.

In the context of the 2026 review, the Commission is analysing how the ETS should be adapted post-2030 so that it continues to incentivise and enable cost-effective transformation for its sectors. On indirect costs, the Commission will work towards ensuring adequate protection remains in place ⁽³⁾.

A review of the existing state aid guidelines on indirect cost compensation is also in progress ⁽⁴⁾. The Commission also adopted the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework giving Member States options for a temporary price relief for energy-intensive industries ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Poland is the largest beneficiary of the Modernisation Fund.

⁽²⁾ Allowances auctioned under the REPowerEU Regulation will raise EUR 20 billion for the Resilience and Recovery Facility by 31 August 2026.

⁽³⁾ A European Steel and Metals Action Plan. COM(2025)125 final.

⁽⁴⁾ Technical updates of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) State aid guidelines, Have your say: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14801-Technical-updates-of-the-Emissions-Trading-Scheme-ETS-State-aid-guidelines_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://competition-policy.ec.europa.eu/about/contribution-clean-just-and-competitive-transition/clean-industrial-deal-state-aid-framework-cisaf_en.