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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
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The update of the 2026-2030 benchmarks, under which industrial installations receive free EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) allowances, is determined by the performance of the 10% most efficient installations in each sector. For the coking industry, the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of these top-performing plants remains below the benchmark value for 2026-2030. This means that the most efficient coking plants in Europe will continue to receive sufficient free allocation to cover for their emissions and may even generate surplus that can be traded on the market.

The benchmark update exercise and the applied methodology is set in EU law. It is a legal obligation enshrined in the ETS Directive¹ which Commission has no discretion to deviate from. Moreover, it is important to avoid creating legal uncertainty or significant delay to the process of determining and transferring the 2026 free allocation to industry.

No special protection or provisions are currently envisaged for the coking industry. The Critical Raw Materials Act recognises coking coal as a critical raw material, and relevant provisions, such as on spatial planning and exploration, therefore apply. In the upcoming review of the ETS Directive the Commission will consider options for the way forward on free allocation and how to boost investments in low-carbon technologies.

¹ Directive 2023/959 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 amending Directive 2003/87/EC establishing a system for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Union and Decision 2015/1814 concerning the establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading system (<http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2023/959/oj>).