

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002976/26
to the Commission
Mirosława Nykiel (PPE)
(15 July 2026)**

Subject: Reduction in the benchmark for coke production

Question for written answer to the Commission

On 11 May 2026, the Commission published a draft regulation providing for a significant reduction in the benchmark for coke production for the free allocation of emission allowances for 2026-2030. In accordance with the methodology set out, the benchmark was determined on the basis of the performance of the 10% most efficient installations in the EU. However, industry representatives fear that the proposed level could be technically unattainable for conventional coking coal-fired coking plants and point to a lack of publicly available information disclosing which installations were considered when determining the new benchmark.

In light of this:

1. Precisely which installations were considered when determining the benchmark for coke production for 2026-2030, and are they solely conventional coking coal-fired coking plants?
2. Does the Commission intend to publish information on the technologies and solutions applied at the most efficient installations, so that other manufacturers are able to implement the best available techniques (BAT)?
3. Has the Commission carried out an assessment to gauge the impact of the proposed benchmark reduction on the competitiveness of Europe's coking sector, the security of supply of strategic raw materials and the risk of production relocating outside the EU?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(27 August 2026)**

The Commission cannot disclose the identity of the installations forming the 10% most efficient group for reasons of business confidentiality surrounding the data.

But to increase transparency, the Commission intends to publish a document including benchmark curves and key parameters of the benchmark exercise, similar to that published in October 2021 ⁽¹⁾.

In addition, the Best Available Technique Reference Document (BREF) on Iron and Steel production ⁽²⁾ developed under the Industrial Emissions Directive ⁽³⁾ contains information on best available techniques for coke production. The Commission has started the revision of this BREF, which should be completed by 2030.

The benchmark update methodology is set out in the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive ⁽⁴⁾ and is based on the actual performance of the most efficient installations.

It should be noted that the performance data submitted by the Member States to the Commission includes verified data on emissions and heat flows, among other parameters, but not the feedstock and technology used.

In the particular case of coke, the 2026-2030 benchmark level is set higher than the greenhouse gas intensity of the 10% best-performing installations, which indicates that the most efficient installations should still receive sufficient free allocation to cover their emissions.

The Critical Raw Materials Act ⁽⁵⁾ recognises coking coal as a critical raw material, and relevant provisions, such as on spatial planning and exploration, therefore apply.

⁽¹⁾ Benchmark curves and key parameters. https://climate.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-10/policy_ets_allowances_bm_curve_factsheets_en.pdf.

⁽²⁾ https://bureau-industrial-transformation.jrc.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2019-11/IS_Adopted_03_2012.pdf.

⁽³⁾ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial and livestock rearing emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control), OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, pp. 17-119, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2010/75/oj>.

⁽⁴⁾ Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 establishing a system for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Union and amending Council Directive 96/61/EC, OJ L 275, 25.10.2003, pp. 32, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2003/87/oj>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1252/oj/eng>.

The Commission has also adopted the proposal for the Industrial Accelerator Act ⁽⁶⁾, keeping under consideration the importance of secure and resilient supply chains for industrial ecosystems relevant to the EU's economic security and defence preparedness.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52026PC0100>.