

**Question for written answer E-000427/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Barbara Kappel (ENF)

Subject: ETS and thermodynamic limit

In many chemical production processes, the thermodynamic limit is the theoretically best possible minimum per unit for a process. Many industries, including those which produce fertiliser and steel, are already operating very close to that minimum, thanks to improvements and the use of the Best Available Technologies (BAT). However, the optimal technologies for actually attaining the theoretical minimum are not yet available in any industry, so that improvements in emissions from plants are possible where plants are being operated far from the minimum figure.

1. The annual correction factor is now to be raised to 2.2%. If, after a certain period of time, as a result of the application of this factor, the granting of free certificates is based on an unattainable figure below the theoretical thermodynamic limit, what will the Commission do in such cases?
2. If individual industries possess technologies which permit production at the thermodynamic limit, how will the Commission apply the cap there?
3. What risks does the Commission perceive with regard to the international competitiveness of European industry if the calculations underlying the award of emission certificates take as a basis limits which are not even theoretically attainable?