

**Question for written answer E-007588/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Situation on the EU market in emissions allowances

Experts agree that price signals on the EU market in emissions allowances do not provide an incentive for investments to improve energy efficiency or cut emissions, and this is likely to continue in the medium and long term, even looking beyond 2025.

They point out that countries which produce a large share of their electricity in coal-fired power stations benefit from the low price of emissions while also receiving free emissions allowances for modernisation of the electricity sector, many of which they have assigned to coal-fired power stations.

It is striking in this context that the Prime Minister and government of Poland have repeatedly said that they are ready to support ratification of the Paris, Doha and Kyoto climate and energy agreements in exchange for the issuing of free emissions allowances for the construction of new coal-fired power stations.

1. What is the Commission's view of the weak price signals on the emissions allowance market?
2. Should there not be a requirement for any aid granted to be used for less-polluting technologies?
3. Should countries consider adopting genuine commitments to reduce emissions in the electricity sector, for example through Emission Performance Standards?