

**Question for written answer E-003818/2017/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Carbon tariffs on countries which are not parties to the Paris Climate Agreement

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change is a demonstration of the unanimity of the international community on the subject of combating climate change. The agreement already covers 77% of world emissions damaging to climate.

The USA is the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, after China. On 1 June, President Trump announced that the USA would withdraw from the climate agreement sooner than previously stated, and that he did not intend to limit the use of fossil fuels but on the contrary to revoke legislation concerning them.

The USA ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016. In order for climate change to be halted, the USA must also participate in efforts to achieve that, so that the withdrawal of the second biggest emitter of greenhouse gases could also weaken the commitment of other countries to reduce emissions. For Europe, the USA's withdrawal means that it will be placed in an unequal competitive position if US industry does not have to invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy like other industrialised countries.

Trump is a democratically elected leader, who also has on his side the Republican majorities in the Senate and the House of Representatives. The President may not be unduly concerned about the damage to his international image, but he may perhaps understand economic factors, given that he won his spurs in business. The EU ought therefore to impose a carbon tariff on all countries which do not comply with the Paris Agreement, and also encourage other industrialised countries to do the same.

Such a tariff would be levied on imported products in accordance with the greenhouse gases to which they had given rise. In this way the tariff would put a price even on carbon dioxide emissions which occurred outside the EU if the country of manufacture failed to do so at the outset at national level. The Paris Agreement was expected to equalise competitive positions and reduce the risk of carbon leakage, but that risk will increase if some competing countries do not participate.

The EU is one of the USA's principal trading partners and allies, so that even the threat of a carbon tariff could bring sufficient pressure to bear on the USA to remain involved in international efforts to halt climate change, rather than withdrawing.

Will the Commission propose imposing carbon tariffs on countries outside the Paris Climate Agreement?