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Dear Chairman,

Lieber Matthias!

Thank you for taking the necessary steps for the European Parliament's confirmation vote on the proposal for the clarification of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) Directive at the December plenary session. The Commission is also keen on a swift implementation back-loading.

We have prepared a draft Regulation amending the Auctioning Regulation, which contains the required implementing measure. It is accompanied by an Impact Assessment, which shows that no significant impact on sectors or subsectors deemed to be exposed to a significant risk of carbon leakage is to be expected. The Regulation would need to be adopted in accordance with the regulatory procedure with scrutiny. The Commission will immediately proceed to an Opinion by the Climate Change Committee upon entry into force of the clarification of the EU ETS Directive on 8 January 2014.

Subject to a favourable opinion by the Climate Change Committee, I would be grateful if the European Parliament could examine the draft Regulation in question by the first plenary session after the upload of the opinion in the Comitology Register, without waiting for the scrutiny period to elapse. As the draft Regulation is fully within the implementing powers just clarified by the amendment of the Directive, and the principle and details of backloading have been discussed intensively in the context of the legislative procedure, I trust that this should not cause any difficulties.

The European Parliament has shortened scrutiny time before for other acts and my Services would be happy to explain the precedents in a meeting.

The European carbon market urgently needs the institutions to act swiftly on back-loading as the usual procedural timelines would imply that scrutiny cannot end before the spring 2014, and auction volumes of emission allowances could not be lowered much before the summer. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

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