

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000808/18**  
**to the Commission**  
**Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR)**  
(8 February 2018)

*Subject:* Impact of Brexit on ETS and non-ETS systems and NECs

Both the reform of the European Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and the rules for the non-ETS sectors impose specific obligations on the EU Member States, including the UK. However, from the time that the UK leaves the EU — which will probably happen in March 2019, when the current Brexit negotiations are finished — it will no longer be bound by EU rules.

This means that the emissions reduction targets set by the European Council in October 2014 will have to be met by a smaller number of countries. What is more, if the UK leaves the EU ETS mechanism, the pool of allowances will shrink — as will the value of the Modernisation Fund, which is drawn from that pool.

Brexit will also have an impact on efforts to meet commitments to reduce emissions of certain air pollutants at national level (national emission ceilings — NEC), for which the EU-wide reduction target is set at 49.6%.

In connection with the above:

- 1) Has the Commission identified how the UK's exit from the EU will affect the EU ETS, non-ETS and NEC systems?
- 2) If so, what impact will Brexit have on the EU and the Member States in the area of European climate policy?
- 3) Will EC laws need to be changed as a result of Brexit?

**Answer given by President Juncker on behalf of the Commission**  
(9 May 2018)

1. Following the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, subject to any transitional arrangement that may be contained in a possible Withdrawal Agreement, the Treaties will cease to apply in the United Kingdom as of 30 March 2019. This means the targets for the United Kingdom in the non-European Emissions Trading System (ETS) sectors and in Directive 2016/2284 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants will also cease to apply.

2. In order to protect the environmental integrity of the EU Emissions Trading System when Union law ceases to apply in the United Kingdom due to its withdrawal from the European Union, the Commission formally adopted on 12 February 2018 an amendment to the EU Emissions Trading System Registry Regulation to implement safeguard measures <sup>(1)</sup>. Article 92(2) of the draft Withdrawal Agreement endorsed by the Commission on 28 February 2018 <sup>(2)</sup> also addresses the conditions necessary to secure an orderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU Emissions Trading System at the end of the transition period if agreed.

3. The withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union does not directly affect EU or Member States' climate policy and does not alter EU legislation applicable to Member States.

4. Future EU climate policy will be developed in accordance with the EU Treaties and rules.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/update-safeguard-measures-eu-emissions-trading-system-due-uks-withdrawal-european-union\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/update-safeguard-measures-eu-emissions-trading-system-due-uks-withdrawal-european-union_en)

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft\\_withdrawal\\_agreement.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft_withdrawal_agreement.pdf)