

**Question for written answer E-011307/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Bendt Bendtsen (PPE)

Subject: Commission's approval of tax allowance for specially energy-intensive industries

The Danish Government has applied to the Commission for approval under the rules on state aid of an amendment to the basic allowance for NOx excise duty in connection with a major increase in that duty.

The increase in the NOx excise duty has already come into force, with effect from July 2012, and the basic allowance for the NOx duty is vitally important in the interest of competitiveness and employment in the industry. It is therefore essential that the state aid application is dealt with as quickly as possible, since in the absence of approval of state aid the industry has not had access to the allowance since the duty was increased in July.

Can the Commission estimate when its treatment of the application from the Danish Government will be completed?