

**Question for written answer E-005530/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Participation in the emissions trading scheme

Directive 2003/87/EC sets out an emissions trading scheme, with a view to a 20% reduction by 2020. Starting this year, if companies are to avoid fines, they must acquire enough licences to cover all their greenhouse gas emissions and, if the scheme works and they have too many, they can sell them on the market to other more polluting companies. Employers and trade unions in Spain's Cantabria region report that compliance with this scheme is impacting their productivity and competitiveness, obliging them to make staff redundant or stop production, and even forcing some out of business.

This is confirmed by a press release from the Turkish company ETI Soda, which announced on 11 January that it would increase its production capacity by 50% because its European competitors had cut theirs, due to the implementation of emissions trading.

In its emissions trading proposals since 2003, has the Commission taken into account the variety of production methods employed by European companies, and the social and economic consequences that these companies will bear?

Has the Commission taken into account the damage that implementing this scheme will inflict on European companies' competitiveness in comparison with companies from neighbouring countries?

Does the Commission intend to carry out a study on the real risks and consequences of deindustrialisation and offshoring due to participation in the emissions trading scheme?

What solutions can the Commission provide for or recommend to the Spanish Government to counter the situation of Cantabrian companies, such as Solvay, which find themselves in difficulties because of their participation in the emissions trading scheme?

In view of the situation of Cantabrian companies, what mechanisms does the Commission suggest to ensure that energy plays a positive role in competitiveness rather than hindering it?