Question for written answer E-003672/2020 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Green Deal compatibility criteria for Projects of Common Interest

In February, 2020 Parliament adopted the fourth list of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs). Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson and Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans promised to make those future energy infrastructure projects 'Green Deal compatible'. We would like to know what sustainability criteria the Commission will apply to ensure that only fossil gas free projects will receive support. Specifically, we ask:

In the cost-benefit analysis for projects, will the Commission apply the EIB’s carbon footprint methodology which requires the inclusion of direct and indirect emissions (scopes 1 to 3, with scope 3 referring to end use emissions caused by fossil gas combustion)?

Will the Commission publish the ranking of the projects selected? This implies the application of:

a transparent process for the selection of projects by, inter alia, making data on the cost-benefit analysis of projects publicly available;

a baseline including absolute emissions;

a carbon shadow price in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Will the Commission apply the energy efficiency first principle, request a thorough infrastructure needs assessment to promote the efficient use of existing infrastructure, and take into account energy demand reduction through the implementation of EU legislation?