

**Question for written answer E-004253/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Incompatibility of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) with the objectives of the Green Deal and the Paris Agreement

Some countries have expressed concerns regarding the incompatibility of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the European Green Deal for achieving climate neutrality in 2050. This treaty is currently under negotiation to update it. This process, however, makes no provision for putting an end to the protection of investments in fossil fuels, the elimination of the ISDS mechanism or the inclusion of binding mechanisms for climate action.

1. What economic, social and environmental impact studies has the Commission carried out or does it intend to carry out and what criteria form the basis for deciding to continue to be a party to the ECT.
2. What binding mechanisms does the Commission propose to include in the modernisation of the ECT to ensure compliance with the commitments entered into under climate action policies, without this leading to multi-million euro claims against the EU and its Member States?
3. In light of the COVID-19 crisis, numerous European countries have adopted emergency measures to protect their citizens. What initiatives does the Commission intend to put in place to protect against and prevent new claims invoking the ECA against Member States for adopting such measures?