

**Question for written answer E-005554/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Energy Charter Treaty renegotiation: the EU's position regarding fossil fuels protection, the Investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanism and public information

The European Green Deal has the goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. Achieving this target is of paramount importance in order to curb global warming and preserve our future. A profound energy transition is therefore required.

However, the EU and most Member States are parties to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), which could protect EUR 2 150 billion in fossil fuel investments until 2050 against public policies that are intended to phase them out. Companies are already challenging Member States' environmental regulations through the means of opaque tribunals, filing claims that amount to billions of euros.

The EU is involved in the ECT 'modernisation process' in an effort to align it with its 'decarbonisation ambition' and the Paris Agreement. All parties need to be unanimous, however, and some openly oppose any kind of reform.

1. What is the EU's exact position regarding fossil fuels in the modernisation process? Should a 'modernised ECT' put an end to the protection of fossil fuel investments?
2. What is its exact position regarding the reform of the Investor-State Dispute Settlement mechanism? Will it reject a revised treaty that is not in line with the EU's Multilateral Investment Court proposals?
3. Will the Commission publicly report on the ongoing negotiations, considering the current lack of public information and the importance of this process?