Question for written answer E-005683/2020

to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Potential of waste-to-energy power generation and carbon capture and storage

To reach the EU’s increased climate targets, technology that eliminates emissions at their source or even removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere will need to be deployed.

Waste and waste treatment are a large part of the equation. 2.2 billion tonnes of waste are produced every year and household waste accounts for 5 % of global CO2 emissions. In the EU, waste is the fourth largest source of emissions, accounting for 3 % of total emissions in 2017.

Waste-to-energy power stations offer a way to drastically reduce emissions from waste that cannot or should not be recycled, compared to landfilling or exporting waste. Given that, according to Eurostat, approximately half of the waste incinerated in the EU is from biogenic sources, there would appear to be considerable potential to remove CO2 from the atmosphere by capturing and permanently storing those CO 2 emissions.

In the light of the above, I would like to ask the following:

1. What potential does the Commission see for the removal of CO2 from waste‑to‑energy heat and electricity production combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS)?

2. What measures is the EU taking to support the demonstration and upscaling of CCS technology and solutions?