

**Question for written answer E-003690/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Elisabetta Gualmini (S&D)**

Subject: Support measures for the ceramics sector

CO₂ emissions in the ceramics sector have decreased by 60% compared to 1991. This is a positive outcome resulting from substantial efforts and an investment plan whereby more than 9% of turnover has been invested in the upgrading of facilities. It is worth bearing in mind that the ceramics sector in Italy invests 10% of its turnover in development and innovation, which is well above the rest of industry, which invests on average 3%.

Despite these significant and tangible steps towards decarbonisation and despite the outbreak of the pandemic, which has adversely affected the entire industry, last year the Commission decided to exclude the ceramics sector from access to state aid for indirect ETS costs. This is a decision which, together with the entry into force of the ETS Phase IV targets, could lead to an erosion of margins and profitability for the ceramics sector, with recessionary effects on production.

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission update its Communication 2020/C 317/04 and consider including the ceramics sector therein?
2. What measures will it take to support research and a competitive transition in the sector in order to ensure that it is able to cope with the necessary technological transformation while keeping its costs in line with those of international competitors?