

**Question for written answer E-005388/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Energy Charter Treaty – proposal for a flexible approach

Efforts to modernise the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) have been ongoing for two years now. In March 2021, the Commission proposed that the definition of 'economic activity in the energy sector' should be amended with a view to phasing out the protection of investments in fossil fuels. The proposal has not yet received the backing of the other ECT signatory countries.

The ECT Secretariat made another proposal which would give the signatory countries flexibility to decide on the extent to which investments would be protected under the ECT. So rather than being required to conclude a joint, uniform agreement on putting an end to protection for fossil fuel investments which would apply in the 53 signatory countries, it would be possible for countries to act unilaterally to stop the ECT from applying to the promotion and protection of investments in certain energy products.

1. What is the Commission's position on the proposal to adopt a flexible approach?
2. By what date is the Commission intending to complete the modernisation of the ECT along with the other signatory countries?
3. What factors is the Commission considering with regard to the definition of economic activity?