Question for written answer E-000002/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Pilar del Castillo Vera (PPE)

Subject: State aid relating to emissions trading

Delegated Decision (EU) 2019/708 sets out the sectors and sub-sectors deemed to be at risk of carbon leakage for the period 2021-2030. The annex to that decision contains a long list of 63 sectors and sub-sectors. By contrast, in the guidelines on state aid in the context of the Emissions Trading Scheme, only 17 sectors are listed as being eligible for aid to compensate for indirect emission costs passed on in electricity prices.

Immediately prior to the pandemic, in February 2020, the price of emission allowances was around EUR 20. In December 2021 that price was already in excess of EUR 80. This has had a serious impact on industry, albeit indirectly through electricity prices.

1. Why has the Commission not included indirect costs in its proposal for a carbon border adjustment mechanism?

2. Does the Commission plan to amend the guidelines on state aid in the context of emissions trading so as to broaden the range of sectors to which they relate?