

**Question for written answer E-001167/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Manon Aubry (The Left)

Subject: EU funding of a programme of accession to the Energy Charter Treaty

The Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) is a widely contested investment protection treaty that would protect EUR 2.15 trillion in investments in fossil fuels by 2050 against public policies aimed at phasing them out. The ECT features outdated investor-state dispute settlement provisions, guarantees disproportionate protection for fossil fuel investments and infringes the sovereignty of states over energy policies.

In December 2019, signatories to the ECT decided to refuse to begin formal accession processes for non-EU countries and to pause invitations to countries to accede to the ECT until the thorough reassessment of the CONEXO (consolidation, expansion and outreach) policy has been finalised.

Despite this decision, the ECT secretariat continues to work with African countries, including Economic Community of West African States countries, to prepare for their eventual accession under the partly EU-funded CONEXO policy.

1. How much funding does the EU provide directly or indirectly to support the CONEXO policy as part of the AGoSE (Amélioration de la Gouvernance du Secteur de l'Énergie – Improvement of the Governance of the Energy Sector) programme or through other funding streams?
2. How does the Commission justify the fact that EU public money is being used to prepare countries to join the ECT when several Member States, many Members of the European Parliament and over 1 million EU citizens have expressed their support for collective withdrawal from the treaty?