

**Question for written answer E-002447/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Opening of coal-fired power stations and the need for a carbon quota moratorium

Austria has become the latest country that is on track to open coal-fired power stations. The French and German governments also announced they will do so. All of this stems from the gas supply being stopped and the lack of alternative energy sources. In fact, this crisis shows that the Green Deal is untenable and that no real assessment has been made of the possibilities of the green energy transition.

The ever-increasing shift from gas-fired to coal-fired power plants in Europe means in practice that the cost of carbon allowances will make up an ever-larger share of the final price of electricity. For example, despite it being summer, when electricity prices are expected to be relatively low, we are increasingly seeing price levels of over EUR 300-350 per MWh. Given that the carbon price is around EUR 85/tonne of CO₂, this means an additional burden of over EUR 100/MWh on the price of electricity from coal-fired power plants. That is the price that the public and businesses are paying for what is clearly a utopian idea.

At a time when the economy is suffering badly, inflation is rampant and the public are gradually getting poorer and business is being stifled, it is time for the Commission to take appropriate measures.

My questions, therefore, are:

1. Is the Commission prepared to propose a moratorium on carbon quotas?
2. Will the Commission review its green transition plan, given its evident shortcomings?