

Question for written answer E-002719/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Christian Ehler (PPE)

Subject: Application of the do no significant harm principle in activities under the European Innovation Council in the light of the adoption of the second delegated act

The 2022 Work Programme of the European Innovation Council (EIC) states that in order to be eligible, activities 'must comply with the "do no significant harm" principle as enshrined in the EU Taxonomy Regulation'. The programme also stipulates that EIC funding will not be awarded to projects that contravene the objectives of the European Green Deal, including any proposals dedicated to increasing the efficiency of fossil fuels and related technologies, for example. Under the second delegated act, highly efficient gas infrastructure, particularly with a view to being refurbished for hydrogen use in the future, is considered to be a transition activity towards sustainability. As the EIC is partly supporting technologies that are close to the market or scaling up on the market, even fossil-based solutions supported by the EIC could contribute to the target of a 55 % reduction in emissions by 2030.

1. What is the legal basis for allowing the EIC to exclude investments that make the use of fossil fuels more efficient?
2. Given the contribution the EIC can make now to reducing emissions by supporting projects with high technology readiness levels, why has this been excluded?
3. How is the EIC's position on fossil fuels consistent with the taxonomy after the adoption of the second delegated act?