Question for written answer Z-050/2020
to the European Central Bank
Rule 140
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Subject: The ECB's late action

With the Covid crisis, the ECB intends to buy at least €1470 billion of assets in 2020-2021 and inject more than €3000 billion in liquidity. However, contrary to the EU Commission and many EU leaders’ calls for a green recovery, the ECB’s response does not integrate any climate criteria.

Its corporate asset purchases alone could support polluting companies to up to €220 billion. 38 fossil fuel companies, including 10 active in coal and 4 in shale oil and gas, will benefit from it.

Moreover, refinancing operations allow banks to get financed at a historically low long-term rate while depositing even the most polluting assets.

While the ECB plans on discussing climate integration during its strategic review, this process won’t be finished until mid-2021 and won’t have concrete effects before 2022.

What does the ECB plan on doing to immediately reduce the indirect support that its operations provide to fossil fuel companies and firms not aligned with European climate objectives? Since its President talked about the ECB capacity of immediately determining brown assets, will the ECB exclude them?