

**Priority question for written answer P-000406/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Next steps for the Energy Charter Treaty

After four years of negotiations, a preliminary agreement between contracting parties on the modernisation of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) was reached on 24 June 2022. However, the modernised text did not obtain a majority in the Council ahead of the 22 November 2022 Energy Charter Conference.

Seven countries (Poland, Spain, the Netherlands, France, Slovenia, Luxembourg and Germany) announced their intention to withdraw from the treaty because they were not satisfied with the modernised text. On 24 November 2022, Parliament adopted a resolution on the outcome of the modernisation of the ECT¹, calling for the withdrawal of the EU and its Member States from the ECT.

1. What are the next steps planned by the Commission regarding the future of the ECT, especially given Parliament's call for the Commission to propose the withdrawal of the EU and its Member States? Will the Commission propose a withdrawal, and if so, when and how?
2. What will the Commission do to bring pending and future EU investment agreements into line with Parliament's demands, especially on the end of protection afforded to fossil fuel investments, the calculation of damages and the shortening of the sunset clause in case of withdrawal?

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¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0421.