

**Question for written answer E-002800/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Waldemar Buda (ECR)

Subject: Protecting the competitiveness of the European cement industry

The cement industry, which is currently facing many challenges, is of crucial importance for the European economy.

Stringent climate targets, the gradual withdrawal of free emission allowances under the EU ETS and the upswing in imports from outside the EU have brought the cement industry to the brink of collapse.

The Draghi report highlights that much of the investment in decarbonising industrial sectors can no longer be justified economically, in view of the need for public support and reduced investment risk. Added to this are the import control difficulties associated with the introduction of the newly created Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and increased cement inflows from Ukraine following the start of Russia's full-scale aggression.

Interventions are needed to save not only the competitiveness of the EU cement industry, but also tens of thousands of jobs in the EU.

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure that CBAM is effective and that a balance is struck between EU producers and third country producers who do not bear the costs of climate policy?
2. The existing autonomous trade measures (ATMs) with Ukraine will expire in June 2025. What are the Commission's plans in this regard for the coming year, and is increased control over cement imports from Ukraine through the introduction of a quota being considered?
3. The increase in energy prices has significantly affected the cement industry. Is the Commission considering extending EU ETS indirect cost compensation to the cement sector and expanding the list of eligible sectors to include the cement industry?

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