

PRESS RELEASE – 22 June 2022

Brussels, 22 June 2022 – By significantly weakening carbon leakage protection measures and agreeing to extend the scope of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) without an adequate impact assessment, amendments adopted by the Parliament in Plenary on ETS and CBAM would deter the investments required to implement the European ceramic industry’s carbon neutral roadmap to 2050. The European ceramic industry calls on EU legislators to restore the legal predictability for decarbonisation investments in the next steps of the legislative process.

On 22 June, the EP Plenary session voted on MEP Liese’s report on the EU ETS Directive review and MEP Chahim’s Report on the CBAM Proposal. Both reports were adopted.

On the ETS Directive review, the European Parliament notably agreed to maintain the increase of the higher benchmark update rate at 2,5% as proposed by the European Commission, including for fallback benchmarks. This will translate in significantly less carbon leakage protection even for the 10% best performers in the ceramic industry among the 1200 ceramic installations covered by the ETS. The decision to phase-out ETS free allowances between 2027 and 2032 does not ensure an effective phase-in of CBAM. The effectiveness of CBAM must be assessed before it replaces one of the cornerstones of carbon leakage protection.

On the CBAM, MEPs voted to extend the scope of CBAM to all ETS sectors by 2030 with a delegated act. This decision is of high concern to the ceramic industry, which is not included in the initial Commission proposal on CBAM. Any CBAM extension must be preceded by an in-depth impact assessment with the consultation of interested sectors and in a co-decision procedure. As stated following the vote in ENVI Committee, CBAM may not be a solution to protect all sectors from carbon leakage, particularly due to their heterogeneity.

For the ceramic industry, “amendments adopted in Plenary vote by the European Parliament would give less predictability for the decarbonisation ambitions of the ceramic industry particularly in the current situation of the high energy and carbon prices. It would have a negative impact on our investment capacities in the long run” concluded Alain Delcourt, Cerame-Unie President.

The Ceramic industry has just recently published its updated Roadmap to 2050, which shows the industry’s pathway to carbon neutrality by 2050. It is available [here](#).

The European ceramic industry covers a wide range of products including abrasives, bricks & roof tiles, clay pipes, wall & floor tiles, refractories, sanitaryware, table- & ornamentalware, technical ceramics, expanded clay and flower pots. The industry generates over 200,000 direct jobs and a production value of €26 billion in the EU.

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