

**Priority question for written answer P-005555/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Renegotiation of the Energy Charter Treaty: alignment with the Paris Agreement before the 2021 COP and next steps envisaged by the EU

The European Green Deal aims at reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. Achieving this target is paramount to curb global warming and preserve our future. It requires a profound energy transition.

However, the European Union and most Member States are parties to the Energy Charter Treaty which could protect 2150 billion euros of investments in fossil fuels by 2050 against public policies aimed at phasing them out.

The treaty undermines any regulatory attempt at changing the crashing course of fossil fuel consumption and forces EU citizens to pay for the life insurance of fossil fuels investors. While a “modernization process” is ongoing, the EU call for alignment of the treaty with the Paris Agreement is most likely to fail to reach the unanimity of all parties.

- 1 Considering that substantial reform is needed urgently, does the EU have a deadline for the ongoing “modernization” process to prevent it from dragging on?
- 2 The EU is bound to submit its enhanced determined contribution to the Paris Agreement at the November 2021 Glasgow COP. Will it commit to withdraw from the ECT, as Italy did (2016), if the modernization process has failed to align the treaty with the Paris Agreement by then?