Press Release

A level playing field for European industry: Euromines backs the ETS benchmark deal

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Parliament and Council compromise on free allowances for 2026-2030 gives companies the certainty they need.

On 12 November, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on revising the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) heat and fuel benchmarks for 2026-2030. The deal provides for 121 million free allowances across all sectors covered by the benchmarks: 88 million under existing ETS rules, plus 28 million from volumes left unallocated because installations did not meet ETS requirements.

The co-legislators also agreed on a targeted support mechanism of up to 5 million allowances, within the overall allocation. Under this mechanism, the European Commission will develop sector-specific sub-benchmarks for a limited number of sectors, and any allowances left unused will be split equally between the Innovation Fund and the Modernisation Fund.

"The agreement ensures that the available allowances continue to benefit the broad range of ETS installations contributing to Europe's decarbonisation efforts. Raw materials, in particular, are essential for the green and digital transition. With European industry under unprecedented competitive pressure and facing high energy prices, a predictable allocation framework is essential. The final text gives companies legal certainty and avoids a wider reallocation that could have disadvantaged sectors equally exposed to high energy costs and international competition. We believe it strikes a sensible balance between addressing specific concerns and keeping the playing field level across industry," said **Rolf Kuby, Director General of Euromines**.

Euromines welcomed the outcome as a balanced and pragmatic middle ground between Parliament's proposal for stronger sector-specific redistribution and the position of the Council.

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Euromines, the European Association of Mining, Metal Ores & Industrial Minerals, is the voice of the European metals and minerals mining industry. Our primary goal is to promote responsible industry practices and ensure that mining receives appropriate consideration in EU policymaking. As a collaborative network, Euromines brings together the Secretariat and Members to assess the impact of European and international policies on the industry, shaping unified positions and actions. Representing both large and small companies, as well as their subsidiaries across Europe and beyond, Euromines advocates for a sustainable and competitive mining sector.

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