

Meeting report - Meeting between CEMBUREAU and DG TAXUD – 23 February 2021

Participants: Gerassimos Thomas, [REDACTED],
(CEMBUREAU)

On request of CEMBUREAU, this meeting took place to discuss the upcoming proposal for a CBAM.

Cembureau supports the introduction of a CBAM, as the European cement industry is committed in decarbonising and helping deliver the EU ambition of carbon neutrality by 2050. However, Cembureau is of the view that CBAM should not lead to reductions of EU ETS free allowances. When it comes to CBAM design elements, Cembureau stressed the importance of WTO compliance. Moreover, CBAM should be based on actual emissions and should include an export rebate.

TAXUD welcomed the cement industry's commitment to decarbonise and support the increasing ambitions of the EU to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. TAXUD indicated that the cement sector is one of the sectors included in the possible initial shortlist of sectors to be covered by the CBAM.

TAXUD explained that both the interaction of EU ETS free allowances with CBAM and the inclusion of export rebates are subject to in-depth legal and economic analysis, particularly with a view to their WTO compliance. WTO compliance is one of the key principles of the CBAM design.

TAXUD also stressed that the Impact Assessment is still ongoing and that important design choices will only take place at a later stage. This is in particular the case, given that CBAM will come as part of the Fit for 55 package, where individual design choices will influence each other.

It was agreed to continue an open exchange in the coming months.