



DANISH MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE, ENERGY AND BUILDING

Commissioner Joaquín Almunia
European Commission
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Stormgade 2-6
DK-1470 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Tel +45 3392 2800
Fax +45 3392 2801
kebmin@kebmin.dk
www.kebmin.dk

Dear Commissioner,

Minister

I have recently replaced Mr. Martin Lidegaard as the Danish Minister for Climate, Energy and Building. In his place, I wish to thank you for the constructive meeting on 22 January at the World Economic Forum in Davos, where Mr. Lidegaard and you discussed the Commission's Draft Guidelines on Environmental and Energy Aid for the period 2014-2020.

To follow up on the discussion about the reservations we have in Denmark of applying carbon leakage as the sole criterion in order to compensate some enterprises for the additional costs incurred by the funding support for electricity from renewable sources, I attach a memo that addresses this specific issue. The memo also outlines a policy proposal for suitable amendments to the Commission's draft guidelines.

It is not only a problem for Denmark. Other Member States also finance the expansion of renewable energy sources by a fee, putting enterprises at a relative disadvantage compared to their European counterparts, where the transition is funded by the fiscal budget.

I believe it is the objective of the European common market to provide the framework for competition on equal terms, and Member States should accordingly have the opportunity to partially compensate industries that are particularly affected by the funding of renewable energy support for some of these additional costs in order to restore competition.

I hope that you will carefully consider the proposed amendments to the Draft Guidelines on Environmental and Energy Aid. This will also be included in the Danish consultation response later this month.

In Davos, it was agreed to have a follow-up meeting in response to the issues raised in the attached memo. I will be looking forward to this meeting and I will in the meantime be at your disposal for any inquiry or question you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Rasmus Helveg Petersen

Attached: Memo on the problems of applying the carbon leakage criteria in the guidelines on environmental and energy aid for 2014-2020 and policy proposals for suitable amendments to the Commission's draft guidelines