$$E_n = -\ln \left\{ \sum_{l=1}^K \pi_l(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{w}) \mathcal{N} \left( \mathbf{t}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_l(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{w}), \sigma_l^2(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{w}) \right) \right\}$$

Since  $a_k^{\pi}$  affects  $E_n$  through every  $\pi_k$  (because of the denominator),

$$\frac{\partial E_n}{\partial a_k^{\pi}} = \sum_{l=1}^K \left( \frac{\partial E_n}{\partial \pi_l} \right) \left( \frac{\partial \pi_l}{\partial a_k^{\pi}} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial E_n}{\partial \pi_l} = -\frac{\mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{t}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_l(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{w}), \sigma_l^2(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{w})\right)}{\left\{\sum_{l=1}^K \pi_l(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{w}) \mathcal{N}\left(\mathbf{t}_n | \boldsymbol{\mu}_l(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{w}), \sigma_l^2(\mathbf{x}_n, \mathbf{w})\right)\right\}}$$
$$= -\frac{\gamma_l}{\pi_l}$$

Using 4.106,

$$\frac{\partial \pi_l}{\partial a_k^{\pi}} = \pi_l (I_{kl} - \pi_k)$$

Substituting, we get:

$$\frac{\partial E_n}{\partial a_k^{\pi}} = \sum_{l=1}^K \left( -\frac{\gamma_l}{\pi_l} \right) (\pi_l (I_{kl} - \pi_k))$$

$$= -\sum_{l=1}^K \gamma_l (I_{kl} - \pi_k)$$

$$= -\sum_{l=1}^K \gamma_l I_{kl} + \sum_{l=1}^K \gamma_l \pi_k$$

$$= -\gamma_k + \pi_k \sum_{l=1}^K \gamma_l$$

$$= \pi_k - \gamma_k$$

which is the same as the result in 5.155.