



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
CLIMATE ACTION

Brussels, 22 January 2021

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your e-mail, addressed to European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, who has asked me to reply on her behalf. In your e-mail, you advocate that the Commission should set the course for an ambitious climate policy in order to limit the global warming at 1.5 °C by 2050. Difficult as that course will be, it is indeed the direction in which not only Europe, but the whole world should be moving. There are today reasons for hope in this respect.

The world is currently experiencing a health crisis with unprecedented economic impact. At the same time citizens and decision-makers alike around the world remain aware of how climate change is undeniably affecting already today the world we live in. Tackling both is a dual challenge we are confronted with and we agree with you that the fight against climate change is an urgency. This is why the Commission has proposed to update the current target of a reduction of 40% greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 to a reduction of at least 55% net emissions compared to 1990. By doing so, we will ensure a more balanced and more effective decarbonisation of Europe in our transition towards climate neutrality by 2050. The Commission has also proposed to inscribe this 2050 objective in a Climate Law, which is currently being debated by the co-legislators of the EU, the Council and the European Parliament, and we hope to see it passed soon into law. These targets, both for 2030 and for 2050, are in-line with the science of climate change and with pathways that achieve the 1.5°C temperature goal.

The European Council endorsed this reinforced climate ambition, already at the end of 2019 for the 2050 objective, and in December 2020 for the new 2030 target. We are also delighted that the new 2030 target was submitted as an update to the EU nationally determined contribution to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as required by the Paris Agreement.

We are now beginning to see other major economies (and major emitters) move in the same direction that Europe has taken: Japan, China, Korea, Canada, hopefully the US as well under its new administration. This is extremely important, given that climate change is a global problem, but European leadership and example is still required.

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These objectives will require a sustained effort over many years, to invest in clean energy, clean industry, clean mobility, healthier nature and, last but not least, a transition that is socially just and leaves no one behind. The strong support and constant attention of our citizens will be crucial to remain on the right path.

Yours sincerely,

[e-signed]
Mauro Petriccione
Director General