



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
CLMATE ACTION  
The Director-General

Brussels,

Dear Petitioners,

Thank you for your e-mails, addressed to several of the Members of the College of Commissioners and Commission Services. The Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans has asked me to reply on his behalf.

I share your concerns as regards the increase in the frequency and severity of climate and weather extremes inside and outside Europe. The recent devastating floods in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg underline the catastrophic consequences of climate change and the need for the European Union and our international partners to increase our ambition before reaching irreversible tipping points.

In the two years since the President of the Commission announced the European Green Deal as one of the central political priorities of her mandate, the Commission has delivered an ambitious set of goals and policies to lead the global fight against climate change and become the first climate neutral continent by 2050.

This goal is no longer an aspiration or an ambition but a legal obligation: with the European Climate Law, the EU has enshrined into legislation the climate neutrality objective and a new target for reducing net emissions by 2030 by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels<sup>1</sup>. This increased climate target is based on a comprehensive Impact Assessment<sup>2</sup>, which determined its feasibility and the necessary path to reaching it. The EU's increased 2030 target is an ambitious objective that puts the EU on track to reaching climate neutrality by 2050 and delivering on the goals of the Paris Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 243, 9.7.2021, p. 1–17

<sup>2</sup> SWD(2020) 176 final

It will entail an unprecedented transition, which – with social fairness at its core – will set the example for the rest of the world to follow. With the package adopted on 14 July 2021<sup>3</sup> the Commission has presented the legislative measures necessary to implement this target and fundamentally transform the EU's economy and society for a fair, green and prosperous future. The package consists of a set of inter-connected proposals that will require all sectors to contribute and makes use of a range of policy instruments: pricing, targets, standards and social support measures to ensure a fair transition. Each of the proposals is accompanied by a thorough impact assessment and is underpinned by the best available science.

The proposals from the Commission are exactly that- proposals and the start of a legislative process. We have invited the European Parliament and the Council to swiftly begin the legislative work to ensure we have the right toolbox to make the EU fit for the 2030 target as soon as possible. This should set us firmly on the pathway towards climate neutrality by 2050.

Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans is in regular contact with youth representatives and youth associations to gauge their calls for ambitious climate action. Your calls for higher ambition and urgent action underline the importance of intergenerational solidarity. In the words of Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans, this is especially important as the youth have showed so much solidarity with other generations and vulnerable citizens by staying confined during the COVID-19 pandemic, although they were at less risk to contract the virus. The European Green Deal is an essential way for other generations to show solidarity with our youth by protecting the planet and the possibility for future generations to live on it in health and prosperity. The success of the European Green Deal is key to determining the future of your generation and those that follow. The Commission will continue to mobilise all means at its disposal to mitigate and adapt to climate change. I trust that you will continue participating in this discussion and advocating for a better future for all.

Yours faithfully,

*(e-signed)*

Mauro PETRICCIONE

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<sup>3</sup> COM/2021/550 final