



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
CLIMATE ACTION

The Director-General

Brussels
CLIMA/KV

Subject: Reply to petition letter to President von der Leyen and Commissioner Hoekstra regarding securing ambitious climate action for a just and competitive Europe.

Dear Petitioner,

On behalf of President von der Leyen and Commissioner Hoekstra, I would like to thank you for your letter calling for ambitious climate action for a just and competitive Europe. We appreciate your concerns regarding climate change and your support for ambitious climate action.

The climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges the world is facing today and taking action to address it is a top priority for the European Commission. Europe has been working hard over the past decades to cut its greenhouse gas emissions substantially while encouraging other countries and regions to do likewise. Europe aims to be the first climate-neutral continent, targeting net-zero emissions by 2050. These objectives are enshrined in the [European Climate Law](#). The Climate Law establishes a first intermediate target to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030.

On 2 July 2025 the Commission put forward its [legislative proposal for a 2040 EU climate target](#): a 90% reduction of the EU's net greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, compared to 1990 levels. This proposed target follows a substantial period of consultation and engagement with EU countries, the European Parliament, stakeholders, civil society and citizens, initiated with the Commission Communication and recommendation on the 2040 climate target in February 2024. This was informed by a [public consultation](#) and detailed [impact assessment](#), that looked in detail at the socio-economic and environmental implications of a range of emissions reduction pathways, and the advice of the [European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change](#).

The Commission's 2040 EU climate target proposal has now been submitted to the European Parliament and the Council for discussion and adoption under the ordinary legislative procedure. Once agreed, the 2040 target will form the basis of our new **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)**, which the EU is required to submit under the Paris Agreement by 2025. COP30, which will be held in Belém, Brazil in November this year, will focus on these new international commitments, which are crucial for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Defining these targets will **enable the EU to put in place the necessary policies and investments** to ensure that the transition to climate neutrality goes hand in hand with a strong and stable economy, competitive industry and future-proof jobs in Europe, with sustainable and affordable energy, food and materials.

Achieving the EU's climate neutrality and climate adaptation objectives requires substantial investments in all sectors of the economy. Accordingly, it is essential to ensure that all finance flows – private and public, national and EU level – are aligned with these objectives. We estimate that over the 2021-2027 period, [climate spending](#) under the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the NextGenerationEU post-COVID recovery instrument will amount to €658 billion (over 34% of total budget commitments). Climate expenditure is also mainstreamed in all major EU spending programmes including Cohesion Policy, the Common Agricultural Policy, the Connecting Europe Facility, EU's research programme Horizon Europe as well as the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

You note the need for concrete implementation measures to accelerate sectoral decarbonisation. The implementation of second Emissions Trading System ([ETS 2](#)), which will extend carbon pricing to buildings and road transport, will ensure cost-effective emission reductions from those two sectors, which have been insufficient so far, and will be crucial to put the EU on a firm path towards its goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050. In addition, the recently published [Clean Industrial Deal \(CID\)](#) outlines concrete actions to turn decarbonisation into a driver of growth for European industries and create quality jobs and the right conditions for companies to thrive.

Europe's transition towards climate-neutrality must also be fair. It will not be easy, but we have policies and tools to bring everyone along. They help us alleviate the impact of the green transition on society and the economy, so that no one is left behind. For instance, the [Social Climate Fund](#) is a new financial instrument designed to ensure a socially fair transition towards climate neutrality. It specifically aims to mitigate the short-term financial impact of ETS2 on vulnerable groups—helping households, small businesses, and communities most affected by energy and transport poverty. The Fund is set to mobilise at least €86.7 billion between 2026 and 2032.

Finally, you rightly point out that Europe's reliance on imported fossil fuels causes energy price volatility and higher supply costs, while making the EU more vulnerable to supply disruptions and price fluctuations, which have had a far-reaching impact on the entire economy. To ensure that we fully end our dependency on Russian energy, in May the European Commission presented a new [RePowerEU roadmap](#) outlining the EU's strategy to gradually remove of Russian oil, gas and nuclear energy from the EU markets in a coordinated and secure manner. On the 17 June 2025, the European Commission put forward a legislative proposal to gradually and effectively stop the import of Russian gas and oil by the end of 2027. The legislative proposal on nuclear will come later.

Please be assured that your suggestions will be heard. Your commitment to a strong, sustainable and prosperous Europe is a valuable support on our common path. Thank you once again for your dedication and commitment.

Yours sincerely,

[Electronically signed]

Kurt Vandenberghe