

## Framework for achieving climate neutrality

The European Green Deal aims to make the EU climate-neutral by 2050, a target supported by the European Parliament and Member States. On 4 March 2020, the European Commission adopted a legislative proposal for a new European Climate Law establishing a framework for achieving the climate-neutrality objective. On 17 September, the Commission amended the proposal to introduce a target of 55 % reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030. In Parliament, the report of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), calling for a 60 % emission reduction by 2030, is due to be voted in plenary in October.

### Background

In order to keep global warming below 1.5 °C, global GHG emissions would need to fall by 7.6 % per year over the next decade, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) [emissions gap report](#). The EU's commitments under the Paris Agreement are a [40 % cut](#) in GHG emissions by 2030 and [climate neutrality](#) by 2050. On 17 September 2020, the Commission adopted a [climate target plan](#) setting a new emissions reduction target of 55 % by 2030. As Ursula von der Leyen explained in her State of the Union speech on 16 September, this would set the EU on a feasible path to climate neutrality and benefit the EU economy.

### European Commission proposal

The [proposed regulation](#) sets a legally binding EU-wide common target of net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. Net-zero means that GHG emissions must not exceed removals of GHGs. The proposed Climate Law would require EU institutions and Member States to take the measures necessary to achieve the collective climate-neutrality objective, taking into account fairness and solidarity among Member States. The [amended proposal](#) includes a target of reducing the EU's GHG emissions by 55 % by 2030, serving as the basis for setting the emissions trajectory for the years between 2030 and 2050. By 30 June 2021, the Commission would have to review the relevant EU legislation for achieving this target.

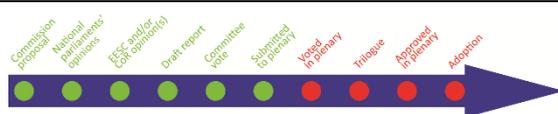
### Climate target plan

The Commission's [climate target plan](#) outlines the revised 55 % emissions reduction target for 2030 and the legislative revisions and initiatives needed to reach this target. The plan is based on the [impact assessment](#) announced in the European Green Deal communication, tasked to evaluate the need and feasibility of an increase in the 2030 target to ensure a balanced path towards the 2050 climate neutrality goal. Actions centre around ensuring a secure and flexible green energy supply across sectors, while reducing energy demand, especially in buildings, through citizen engagement and accelerated renovations and ensuring enough carbon sink capacity to balance remaining emissions in 2050.

### European Parliament position

The proposal has been referred to the ENVI committee. Its [report](#), adopted on 11 September, calls for a Union-wide 60 % emissions reduction target by 2030, for net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest in the EU and in each Member State and for negative emissions after 2050. The Commission would have to draw up an EU GHG budget by 31 December 2021, and consider introducing a target for 2040. The European Panel on Climate Change, an independent scientific advisory body, would be established by June 2022. The plenary vote would establish the Parliament's position for trilogue negotiations once the Council adopts its position.

First-reading report: [2020/0036\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: ENVI; Rapporteur: Jytte Guteland (S&D, Sweden). For further information see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).



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PE 652.098 – October 2020



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