

EN
E-001809/2019
Answer given by Mr Moedas
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.6.2019)

The Horizon 2020 Regulation sets an expected climate-related expenditure level of at least 35% of the total budget. After five years of implementation, this share reaches about 30% of Horizon 2020's total commitments so far. The Societal Challenges programme part dedicates 49% of its budget to climate action. In the Energy Societal Challenge, the climate action budget share exceeds 99%.

The EU 2020 energy and climate targets do indeed guide the priority setting of the Horizon 2020 Energy Challenge, but it is important to note that typical research and innovation actions run for three-four years and will materialise their impact only over a longer period of time, typically between five to ten years after the end of the project. By the end of April 2019, the majority of Research & Innovation projects is still on-going or still have to start (in case of the Energy Challenge, projects worth of EUR 0.2 billion are finished, whereas projects of EUR 2.6 billion are on-going and approximately EUR 1.5 billion is still available for funding projects until the end of the programme). Therefore, the impact of projects funded under Horizon 2020 is expected rather to the 2030 and 2050 EU energy and climate targets.

The interim evaluation of Horizon 2020¹, published in May 2017, presents quantitative and qualitative information on the results and impacts of funded actions for the first two years of the programme implementation. In addition, several studies are programmed for 2020 to evaluate the impact of various project portfolios. The ex-post evaluation of Horizon 2020, due by the end of 2023, will aim at analysing, to the extent possible, the impacts of the portfolio of projects funded under Horizon 2020.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/interim-evaluation-horizon-2020_en