

EN
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Answer given by Mr Breton
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.3.2021)

As announced in the European Green Deal, in order to achieve climate neutrality the transport sector needs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2050¹. The Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy² sets out milestones to this end and to achieve clean mobility. In this respect, the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive³ will ensure that adequate charging and refuelling infrastructure for zero-emission vehicles exists in all urban and rural areas. The Commission does not intend to ban any propulsion technology.

The twin green and digital transitions can result in considerable increase in the demand for Critical Raw Materials (CRMs). The Commission is addressing concerns related to sustainable sourcing of such raw materials through the Action Plan on CRMs⁴. With regard to electric vehicles (EVs) specifically, the Commission's proposal for a Regulation on batteries⁵ aims to address ethical sourcing as well as environmental and emissions-related issues associated with the production and end-of-life treatment of all batteries.

EU Member States have the right to choose their energy mix and may include nuclear as part of their effort to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The Commission aims at improving the safe use of nuclear energy and nuclear technologies⁶ and does not provide financial support for the construction of new nuclear fission power plants. The integration of EVs in the energy system, in conjunction with the regulatory provisions for demand response embedded in the Clean Energy Package, are expected to boost the uptake of additional renewable electricity.

¹ COM(2019)640 final

² COM (2020)789 final, https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/mobilitystrategy_en

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32014L0094>

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42849>

⁵ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council concerning batteries and waste batteries, repealing Directive 2006/66/EC and amending Regulation (EU) No 2019/1020; COM(2020) 798/3

⁶ Through Nuclear decommissioning assistance programmes, research on safety and waste management and on the development of nuclear fusion energy technologies through the ITER project