

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3580/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Base year for greenhouse gas emissions

The Commission wishes to take 2005 as the base year for greenhouse gas emissions (in the proposal for a decision on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to 2020, COM(2008)0017), disregarding the whole Kyoto process, on the basis of which many Member States continuously reduced their emissions from 1990 onwards. The Member States and the EU ratified the Kyoto Protocol, so that it forms part of national and Community law. The Hungarian Parliament, for example, ratified the agreement virtually unanimously. If the Commission were now to disregard the reductions achieved between 1990 and 2005, it would fail to recognise the efforts of those States which have taken their commitments seriously for the past decade and a half.

Does the Commission not consider it to be in contradiction with the European Union's environmental commitments and principles and with efforts to combat climate change that, according to its proposal, some Member States will be permitted to emit more greenhouse gases in 2020 than in 1990?

Does this not mean that the Commission is retrospectively violating the Kyoto Protocol, while it has condemned third countries for doing precisely the same thing?

Does the Commission consider it right not to recognise the achievements of those who have taken their commitments seriously for the past decade and a half, and to reward those States which significantly increased their emissions between 1990 and 2005?

Will not the Commission's approach lead to a violation of regulations on environmental and climate protection?