Subject: Contradictions of an environment policy with no real future

The Commission is working on a proposal to raise the 2030 target for cutting greenhouse gas emissions from the current figure of 40% up to 50% or even 55%.

In quantitative terms, the target of 55% would cut emissions by a further 850 million tonnes per year, approximately, when compared to the current 40% target.

At the same time, the Financial Times reports that in China ‘148GW of coal-fired [power] plants are either being built or are about to begin construction’.

This additional capacity in China will produce approximately 1 180 million tonnes per year of greenhouse gas emissions, wiping out the 850 million tonne cut in the EU and resulting instead in a net increase of around 330 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per year.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. How is it taking into account the fact that if the EU 2030 target were to be raised to 55%, with its concomitant huge impact on the EU’s citizens, businesses and economy, the positive outcome for the climate would be thoroughly thwarted by the simultaneous rise in emissions from the new Chinese power plants?

2. What steps will it take to ensure that the European Union does not end up in a situation where it is tackling climate change alone, at huge cost and great sacrifice, without, in the end, the plant deriving any benefit from this?