

**Question for written answer E-000748/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: 2030 target for reducing emissions

In its proposal to raise the greenhouse gas emission reduction target for 2030 to at least 55%, the Commission proposes including both carbon emissions and removals in the calculation of the target.

However, taking into account the emissions also soaked up by carbon sinks such as forests and soil would effectively raise the target to a level of between 50.5% and 52.8%, jeopardising the achievement of climate neutrality by 2050 and the EU's compliance with the Paris Agreement commitments.

The need to move beyond the two targets is particularly important in sectors such as agriculture, which has major emissions absorption potential but is also liable to remain one of the most polluting sectors if unsustainable farming practices continue to be adopted and meat production continues to be high, especially from intensive livestock farming.

In the Commission's view, should the emission reduction target and emission removal target not be separated in order to achieve the climate objectives?

How does it intend to establish a methodology for calculating removals with clear benefits and zero risk that the stored carbon might once again be released into the environment?

Does it not think that some sectors and countries should go beyond the climate neutrality objective and achieve negative emissions in order to reduce CO₂ concentrations to safe levels?