On 14 July 2021, as part of the ‘Fit for 55’ package, the Commission presented a legislative proposal for a revision of the Regulation setting CO2 emission performance standards for cars and light commercial vehicles. The proposal sets more ambitious targets for reducing the CO2 emissions of new cars and vans. Compared to the CO2 emission limits applicable in 2021, the emissions of new passenger cars registered in the EU would have to be 55 % lower, and the emissions of new vans would have to be 50 % lower. By 2035 all new passenger cars would need to have zero emissions. The Commission would report on the progress towards zero-emission road mobility by 31 December 2025 and every two years thereafter. Based on the reporting, the Commission would have to review the effectiveness and impact of the Regulation in 2028.

The current legislation on CO2 emission performance standards for new cars and light commercial vehicles, Regulation (EU) 2019/631, sets targets for the EU fleet-wide average CO2 emissions. Average CO2 emissions from new passenger cars and vans registered in the EU will have to be 37.5 % lower in 2030, compared to the limits in 2021 (95g CO2/km). For new vans, the reduction target would be 31 % by 2030 (compared to 147 g CO2/km in 2021). A dedicated incentive mechanism aims to accelerate the market uptake of zero- and low-emission vehicles.

The Commission prepared an inception impact assessment (roadmap) for the update of the CO2 emission performance standards, on which a public consultation was held from 13 November 2020 to 5 February 2021.

In the European Parliament, the proposal has been referred to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI). Jan Huitema (Renew, Netherlands) was appointed as rapporteur. On 14 July 2021, the ENVI Committee held an exchange of views on the on the Fit for 55 (Fit for 2030) package with Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans. On 14 September 2021, the Fit for 55 package was debated in the European Parliament plenary session.

References:

- EP Legislative Observatory, Procedure file on CO2 emission standards for cars and vans. 'Fit for 55 package', 2021/0197(COD)
- European Commission, Proposal for a regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2019/631 as regards strengthening the CO2 emission performance standards for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles in line with the Union's increased climate ambition, COM/2021/556
- European Commission, Communication on 'Fit for 55': delivering the EU's 2030 climate target on the way to climate neutrality, COM/2021/550
- European Commission, Communication on the European Green Deal, COM/2019/640
- European Commission, CO2 emissions for cars and vans – revision of performance standards, public consultation

Further reading:

- European Parliament, EPRS, CO2 standards for new cars and vans, Briefing, EU Legislation in Progress, February 2019
- European Parliament, EPRS, Transport CO2 emissions in focus, At a glance, October 2020

Author: Gregor Erbach, Members' Research Service, legislative-train@europarl.europa.eu

Visit the European Parliament pages on climate change.

As of 20 November 2021.

RAPPORTEUR
Jan HUIJTEMA
ENVI - PECH

HYPERLINK REFERENCES

• https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12655-Revision-of-the-CO2-emission-standards-for-cars-and-vans-
• mailto:legislative-train@europarl.europa.eu