Article

European Parliament

Cutting EU greenhouse gas emissions: national targets for 2030

The Effort Sharing Regulation sets national targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions to help the EU meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement.

To help fight climate change, EU leaders adopted in October 2014 the 2030 climate and energy framework, which includes binding targets to cut emissions in the EU by at least **40% below 1990 levels by 2030**. The EU is launching various initiatives to reach these targets . One of them is the Effort Sharing Regulation.

What is effort sharing?

The Effort Sharing Regulation sets binding targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions for each EU country. In sectors such as transport, agriculture, buildings and waste management emissions will be cut to 30% by 2030 compared to 2005. These sectors account for the **majority of the EU's greenhouse gases** (about 60% of total EU emissions in 2014).

The targets above are also part of the EU's commitment in the Paris Agreement.

To guarantee that all countries participate in the EU's efforts to reduce emissions coming from the sectors mentioned above, the Effort Sharing Decision establishes binding annual greenhouse gas emission targets for EU countries for the period 2013–2020.

In April 2018 MEPs adopted a **new regulation** that is the successor of the Effort Sharing Decision. Itl lays down EU countries' minimum contributions to emission reductions for the period **2021-2030** as well as the rules for determining the annual emissions allocations and how to evaluate progress.

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However, the proposal will need to be approved by the Council as well before the legislation can enter into force.

What are the proposed national targets?

As the capacity for cutting emissions varies by member state, this is taken into account by basing the targets on the countries' gross domestic product per capital. The resulting 2030 targets range from 0% to -40% compared to 2005 levels and are in line with the EU's general 30% reduction target.

Member state	2030 target compared to 2005
Luxemburg	-40%
Sweden	-40%
Denmark	-39%
Finland	-39%
Germany	-38%
France	-37%
United Kingdom	-37%
Netherlands	-36%
Austria	-36%
Belgium	-35%
Italy	-33%
Ireland	-30%
Spain	-26%
Cyprus	-24%
Malta	-19%
Portugal	-17%
Greece	-16%
Slovenia	-15%
Czech Republic	-14%
Estonia	-13%
Slovakia	-12%
Lithuania	-9%
Poland	-7%
Croatia	-7%

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Hungary	-7%
Latvia	-6%
Romania	-2%
Bulgaria	0%

Source: European Parliament briefing

A strategy to cut emissions will be drawn up for each EU country to make sure they decrease emissions at a constant pace throughout the period.

A **safety reserve** with a total of 105 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent will be created and be **available in 2032**. It is intended to help less wealthy EU countries reach their 2030 targets. The reserve will be accessible only if the EU attains its 2030 target and then only under strict conditions.

However, some flexibility will be possible. For example, EU countries will be able to **bank, borrow and transfer** annual emission allocations between each other from one year to another.

What does the Parliament propose?

To ensure long-term predictability, MEPs also propose to set a target for 2050, namely to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80%** compared to 2005 levels

Members also want to give more support to lower-income EU countries. Provided they have taken, or will take, action before 2020, they will be rewarded with more flexibility further down the line.

Other initiatives to cut greenhouse gas emissions

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There are other measures to help the EU its commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change:

- The European Emissions Trade Scheme
- The Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation
- Reducing car emissions: new CO2 targets for cars explained

Check out our infographics on the EU's progress towards reaching its 2020 climate change targets.

Find out more
Procedure file
Greenhouse gas emissions by country and sector (infographic)
Articles about the fight against climate change
Infographic: timeline of climate change negotiations

MEP in charge of steering the proposal through Parliament
Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE, Netherlands)

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MEPs are working on plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions in Europe ©AP Images/European Union-EP

Video
https://www.europarltv.europa.eu/en/programme/economy/effort-sharing-driving-europe-s-ambitious-climate-goals

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