

**Question for written answer E-002269/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikolas Farantouris (The Left)

Subject: EU climate target for 2040

In February 2024, the Commission announced a 90 % reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels as the recommended target for 2040 to ensure that the EU reaches climate neutrality by 2050¹. This recommended target was based on a detailed Commission impact assessment² and a proposal from the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, which proposed that the target should be 90-95 %³. However, the legislative proposal to include the target in the European Climate Law⁴ has been significantly delayed and is now expected on 2 July 2025. At the same time, it seems that the Commission will propose flexibilities that undermine climate efforts and the achievement of EU climate neutrality⁵ (notably the possibility to use international carbon credits instead of implementing domestic action⁶), which is strongly criticised by the Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change⁷.

In view of this, can the Commission say:

1. Will it present its proposal on 2 July 2025?
2. Does it intend to propose flexibilities and, if so, which ones?
3. Will the Commission's proposal be accompanied by an analytical and detailed impact assessment demonstrating its full compatibility with the climate-neutrality objective, but also comparing that proposal's expected results with the results of a proposal based on domestic action rather than on the use of international carbon credits?

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¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2024%3A63%3AFIN>,
https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/climate-strategies-targets/2040-climate-target_en.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52024SC0063>

³ <https://climate-advisory-board.europa.eu/reports-and-publications/scientific-advice-for-the-determination-of-an-eu-wide-2040>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1119>.

⁵ <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-2040-climate-target-with-carbon-credits-expected-in-july-diplomats-say/>

⁶ Carbon credits allow one country to finance emission reduction projects in another (usually a poorer, developing country) and subtract those CO₂ emission reductions from its own carbon balance.

⁷ <https://climate-advisory-board.europa.eu/reports-and-publications/scientific-advice-for-amending-the-european-climate-law-setting-climate-goals-to-strengthen-eu-strategic-priorities>