

Question for written answer E-002953/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Climate science: safeguarding scientific progress through openness to falsification and dissent

In the meeting of Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Climate and Food Safety of 15 July 2025, a Commission representative stated that individuals are 'not entitled to their own facts', particularly in the context of climate change and disinformation. The Commission further clarified that it understands 'facts' to refer to findings from peer-reviewed science.

While peer-reviewed science plays a critical role in informing public policy, the Commission will be aware that, under widely accepted epistemological principles – including those advanced by Karl Popper – scientific knowledge advances not through the defence of consensus, but through critical testing, falsification and openness to refutation¹.

In light of this:

1. What mechanisms does the Commission have in place to ensure that scientific claims used in policy are not treated as final truths, but remain open to critical scrutiny and possible falsification?
2. How does the Commission distinguish between legitimate scientific dissent and disinformation, particularly in cases where minority views may contribute to the evolution of knowledge?
3. In view of the Commission's active efforts to fact-check and correct perceived disinformation, how does it ensure that such interventions do not inadvertently suppress legitimate scientific dissent or public criticism of prevailing scientific views, especially when such dissent may contribute to the advancement of knowledge?

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¹ See: Popper, K., *Logik der Forschung* (The Logic of Scientific Discovery), 1934. Popper argues that scientific theories cannot be conclusively verified but only provisionally accepted until falsified. According to Popper, treating current knowledge as unquestionable risks turning science into dogma, undermining both scientific and democratic integrity.