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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
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The European Climate Law¹ establishes the EU's commitment to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990, and to reach climate neutrality by 2050. Delivering on those objectives requires ambitious policies to ensure a swift and sufficient decrease in emissions from all sectors.

The Regulation on CO₂ emission standards for light-duty vehicles² plays a key role in this by setting a 100% emissions reduction target from 2035 onwards for new cars and vans put on the EU market.

In the past years, this Regulation has already started to deliver. Average CO₂ emissions of new cars registered in Europe have gone down each year since 2020. In 2023 they were 28% below 2019 levels as battery electric cars reached a market share of 15.5%, up from 2% in 2019.

The CO₂ emission standards, together with the measures put in place for recharging infrastructure, batteries and the sustainable supply of critical raw materials provide the market with long-term predictability, so that investments can be channelled in clean technologies, development of new value chains, and reskilling of workers. This will make sustainable zero-emission mobility increasingly affordable and accessible for consumers, reduce energy consumption and dependency on fossil fuel imports and improve air quality.

As other major economies are advancing towards zero-emission mobility, it is essential for the EU industrial competitiveness to create the conditions for the EU industry to provide zero-emission vehicles. This will create new business opportunities and jobs in the EU and will allow our automotive industry to maintain its leadership in global markets.

¹ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1119/oj>

² <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/631/2024-01-01>