

EN
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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission welcomes the United Nations (UN) Emissions Gap Report; Commission staff members actively contribute to it as authors and reviewers. While global emissions are increasing at a worrying pace, the EU's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions have been on a decades-long decreasing trend, with another strong reduction of 8% net GHG emissions from 2022 to 2023¹. The EU is on track to achieve its 2030 target to reduce GHG emissions by at least 55% compared to 1990 levels. The Commission has recommended a target of reducing the EU's net GHG emissions by 90% by 2040² which it intends to include in a proposal to amend the European Climate Law.

As the EU's share of GHG emissions is decreasing, now at 6%, mitigation by others becomes more important, though EU leadership remains essential. The EU will continue to lead by example, actively supporting negotiations under the Paris Agreement and contributing through climate finance and experience while engaging with third countries to share its good practice.

At COP29³, the EU and its Member States worked tirelessly, together with many partners, on achieving an outcome that reaffirms the global commitment to tackling the pressing challenge of the current time, but also reflects the complexity and scale of the issues faced. Agreements on two vital mandates were reached: a new goal for climate finance for developing countries and the completion of the international carbon markets' chapter of the Paris Agreement rulebook. Despite mitigation ambition not at the core of the agreements reached in this COP, the EU remains committed to driving ambition and calls for ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions to be presented ahead of COP30.

¹ Climate Action Progress Report 2024 : https://climate.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7bd19c68-b179-4f3f-af75-4e309ec0646f_en?filename=CAPR-report2024-web.pdf

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2024%3A63%3AFIN>

³ 29th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.