EN
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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.1.2025)

1. The Commission will soon make a legislative proposal to amend the European Climate Law in a targeted way to include the net 90% emission-reduction target for 2040. The impact assessment accompanying the 2040 climate target communication shows that setting a 2040 climate target implies greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts by all sectors, and enhancement of removals, which need to be enabled by various policies. Following the setting of the target for 2040, and in line with the foreseen reviews, the Commission will prepare a climate policy architecture beyond 2030, and prepare the proposals for the post-2030 policy framework that will be needed to deliver the 2040 target in a fair and cost-efficient manner.

2. The Commission will assess this in the context of the reviews foreseen in climate legislation in 2026.

3. While continuing efforts to accelerate deep and sustained emission reductions, intensifying the development and scale-up of carbon removal solutions is of key importance for reaching climate neutrality by 2050. The Commission is developing methodologies under the certification framework for carbon removals, which will facilitate investment in innovative carbon removal technologies in the EU, while addressing greenwashing. The Commission will also assess, by July 2026, whether permanent carbon removals could be covered by the Emissions Trading System and, if appropriate, present a legislative proposal and an impact assessment. During 2025, the Commission will organise a number of events, gathering a broad set of stakeholders, to consider how to boost the financing of[1] and the demand for permanent removals and removal credits that such projects can generate, and will follow up with appropriate actions.

[1] As is currently done under the Innovation Fund, for example.