

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002894/24
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(12 December 2024)**

Subject: Climate neutrality

The EU and the USA want to become climate neutral by 2050, China by 2060, India by 2070, and Germany by 2045.

The Commission is asked to answer each of the following questions separately:

1. Can the Commission indicate how much quicker the 1.5-degree target can be achieved if the EU becomes climate neutral in 2050 instead of in 2060 like China or in 2070 like India, and if not, why not?
2. Can the Commission indicate how much quicker the 1.5-degree target can be achieved if Germany becomes climate-neutral in 2045 instead of in 2050 like the EU, and if not, why not?
3. Can the Commission indicate what the potential impact on the EU budget would be if the climate-neutrality targets were brought forward to an earlier date or postponed to a later date, and if not, why not?

Submitted: 12.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(20 March 2025)**

The question is not of speed to achieve a warming target but of how to use the remaining carbon budget ⁽¹⁾ to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

This requires strong reductions of global greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) in the coming years and decades. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC ⁽²⁾) shows global GHGs need to be cut by 43% in 2030 compared to 2019 and that in 2050 global CO₂ emissions need to be at 0.

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires other countries to join the EU on the path to climate neutrality. Countries such as China and India and other major emitters should be encouraged to present and implement long-term strategies for net zero aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

The EU climate neutrality target is compatible with action required at global level to limit global warming to 1.5°C. If a Member State reduces emissions faster, this contributes to a slower reduction of the remaining global carbon budget compatible with 1.5°C and so makes limiting global warming to 1.5°C more likely.

As EU GHG emissions are now 6% of global emissions, the direct, additional impact is limited, but the level of ambition shown by the EU and its Member States is closely watched by international partners and serves as a global role model for climate action.

The outcome of the negotiations for the EU Budget cannot be anticipated. Scientific literature and economic analyses show that the costs of inaction are significantly higher than costs of ambitious action to reach climate neutrality, with significant added value from EU action in terms of competitiveness, energy security, potential for clean tech leadership and reduced climate and health impacts from reducing GHG emissions alongside measures to boost preparedness for climate impacts.

⁽¹⁾ The carbon budget over a period is defined as the cumulative net carbon emissions over the period. The IPCC (6th Assessment Report) defines remaining carbon budget associated with long-term temperature objectives.

⁽²⁾ IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6).