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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.8.2025)

On 2 July 2025, the Commission proposed an amendment to the European Climate Law to include the net 90% 2040 climate target, as set out in the Political Guidelines. It will provide investment certainty, strengthen energy independence and economic security for enhancing the competitiveness of EU industry. The adoption of the proposal follows substantial engagement with Member States, European Parliament Groups, stakeholders, civil society and citizens, launched with the Commission's recommendation on the target in February 2024. The proposal setting a 2040 climate target has been submitted to the European Parliament and the Council for examination under the ordinary legislative procedure.

The proposal provides for a limited number of flexibilities and supports the creation of the right enabling environment in order to implement the target. The proposal provides for the Commission to ensure that these flexibilities are appropriately reflected in designing the post-2030 legislation needed to achieve the 2040 target, and the future architecture should be based on robust impact assessments. Real and timely investments on the ground to drive domestic reductions in emissions and carbon removals are and must remain a priority. Any flexibility needs to be compatible with the temperature objective of the Paris Agreement to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and staying the course towards climate neutrality in 2050 and be part of a broader policy mix ensuring a just and cost-efficient transition.