

EN

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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.7.2025)

The Commission has adopted the proposal to amend the European Climate Law to include the net 90% 2040 target on 2 July 2025. This will allow for communicating the EU's new 'nationally determined contribution' under the Paris Agreement, including an indicative figure for 2035 that will be derived from the 2040 target, ahead of the climate conference (COP30) in Belem.

As outlined in the proposal for a modernised Cohesion Policy¹, given the significant investment required to meet the EU's decarbonisation and competitiveness goals, Member States must continue investing in projects that support the climate and energy transitions. Consequently, the climate spending targets for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF, 30%) and the Cohesion Fund (CF, 37%) remain in place. The mid-term proposal enhances flexibility by allowing excess climate expenditure from the ERDF to contribute to the CF's climate target, and vice versa. Thus, Cohesion Policy will maintain a substantial allocation of funding towards climate action, which is necessary to meet the forthcoming 2040 target.

The current EU budget, including NextGenerationEU, is on track to exceed its overall 30% climate spending target (approximately 34% or EUR 660 billion²) as well as the sectoral targets set in EU fund-specific legislation. The EU budget's 'climate adjustment mechanism' ensures that the Commission will propose corrective action in line with the specific basic act provisions in case of deviations in the programming that could endanger the overall 30% target. The EU budget will therefore continue to make a considerable contribution to the EU's climate goals.

¹ Available at https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/publications/communications/2025/a-modernised-cohesion-policy-the-mid-term-review_en.

² Based on recent projections, see the *How much do we spend?* section available at https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/performance-and-reporting/horizontal-priorities/green-budgeting/climate-mainstreaming_en.