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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.8.2025)

1. The Commission agrees that science is a dynamic process grounded in testing and reassessment. Scientific findings that inform EU policy are not treated as immutable truths, but as the best available evidence, to be regularly reviewed as new insights emerge. The Commission draws on expert input from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change, the Joint Research Centre and the Scientific Advice Mechanism.
2. The Commission distinguishes clearly between legitimate scientific dissent and disinformation, defined as the intentional spread of false or misleading claims. The former is essential to science; the latter undermines public trust. The Commission's actions aim to protect the integrity of evidence while keeping debate open.
3. The Commission's efforts to counter disinformation do not suppress public debate. They protect citizens' right to accurate information, which is essential for democracy. According to the 2025 Eurobarometer, 52% of Europeans find media coverage on climate unclear and 49% struggle to identify credible sources online. The Commission remains committed to freedom of expression and open, informed public discourse.