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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.9.2025)

The Commission welcomes the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on climate change, which broadly reflects the EU's position as submitted to the ICJ proceedings. The Court confirms the importance of the challenge faced and the importance of climate and environmental protection efforts. It also reaffirms the obligation for States to cooperate and take collective and ambitious climate and environmental measures.

The Commission does not envisage specific action as an immediate follow-up to the Advisory Opinion. The Commission considers that its proposal for a 2040 target of a reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions of 90% compared to 1990 levels, including starting from 2036 a possible limited contribution of high-quality credits from outside the EU, is in line with its obligations under the Paris Agreement and international law, and calls on co-legislators for a swift political agreement on the 2040 target so as to enable the communication of an Nationally Determined Contribution ahead of the next COP30 in Belem.

The Commission will continue to lead international efforts to stay on the Paris Agreement trajectory, and to further develop, implement and enforce EU climate and environmental policies to comply with the obligations and commitments under other applicable law specifically identified by the ICJ.