

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003473/25
to the Commission
Beatrice Timgren (ECR), Charlie Weimers (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR)
(8 September 2025)

Subject: Assessing the costs and benefits of the European Green Deal on global average temperatures

The EU aims to become climate-neutral by 2050, a goal reaffirmed in numerous Commission strategies and legislative packages. A 2021 study estimates that achieving this target will require investments of up to EUR 28 trillion ⁽¹⁾. This corresponds to nearly EUR 1 trillion per year — a sum that imposes significant burdens on households and businesses.

Given that the EU's contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is approximately 6% ⁽²⁾, this raises the question of what impact such investments will have on global temperatures.

In the light of the above:

1. To what extent does the Commission estimate that global average temperatures will be reduced by 2050 if the EU allocates the investments as required under the European Green Deal?
2. How does the Commission calculate the impact of EU policies on global average temperatures by 2050?
3. Has the Commission evaluated the extent to which projected emission increases by major economies outside the EU could offset or undermine the temperature reductions achieved through the European green deal?

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

Since the ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change, commitments by countries around the world have contributed to reducing projected global warming from 3.7 — 4.8°C to 2.4 — 2.6°C ⁽¹⁾.

This shows the importance of ambitious leadership and concrete climate action, such as that of the EU and its Member States, to avoid uncontrolled global warming and the damages it brings for economies, ecosystems, well-being, ultimately contributing to political instability ⁽²⁾. The European Climate Law (ECL) and its climate targets ensure that the EU remains a global climate leader.

Investments are necessary regardless of the EU decarbonisation pathway, to replace ageing assets and infrastructure and to respond to growing energy needs.

Delivering on the targets under the ECL provides certainty and boosts such investments in a modern EU energy system, independence, strategic autonomy and enhanced security, while limiting the costs of climate inaction which far outweigh investments needed ⁽³⁾, ⁽⁴⁾, ⁽⁵⁾.

The Clean Industrial Deal and Net-Zero Industry Act ⁽⁶⁾ outline concrete actions to turn decarbonisation into a driver of growth for European ⁽⁷⁾ industries.

Limiting global average temperature is a collective effort, all countries must act to reduce emissions. Climate targets reflect global cost-effective Greenhouse gas pathways aligned with the Paris Agreement temperature goals. EU climate policy gives credibility to the EU's calls on others to act and accelerate decarbonisation ⁽⁸⁾.

¹ "Europe's path to climate-neutral by 2050 costs roughly EUR 28 trillion", Consultancy.eu website, 24 August 2021, <https://www.consultancy.eu/news/6663/europes-path-to-climate-neutral-by-2050-costs-roughly-28-trillion>.

² European Parliament 'Climate change in Europe: facts and figures', European Parliament website, 19 July 2018, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20180703STO07123/climate-change-in-europe-facts-and-figures>.

⁽¹⁾ Projected global warming by the end of the century. See: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/degrees-matter>.

⁽²⁾ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) AR6 WGII. Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability: [ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf).

⁽³⁾ The report shows that by reducing the risks of climate-induced events, climate action could prevent significant economic losses and raise global gross domestic product by up to 13% by the year 2100. Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) (2025). Investing in Climate for Growth and Development: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/investing-in-climate-for-growth-and-development_16b7cbc7-en.html.

⁽⁴⁾ International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) (2024). Climate damage projections beyond annual temperature. The study shows a global gross domestic product loss of 10% if the planet warms by more than 3°C: <https://iiasa.ac.at/news/apr-2024/what-are-economic-costs-of-climate-inaction>.

⁽⁵⁾ European Central Bank (2025). Climate risks: no longer the tragedy of the horizon. It states that climate events could cause euro area gross domestic product to fall by up to 5% by 2030 — a downturn similar in magnitude to the economic impact of the Global Financial Crisis. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/blog/date/2025/html/ecb.blog20250709~aed804c955.en.html>

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en.

⁽⁷⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/sustainability/net-zero-industry-act_en.

⁽⁸⁾ The joint EU-China press statement on climate change shows the importance of EU's role in building the trust needed for others to commit and engage in climate action: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/07/24/joint-eu-china-press-statement-on-climate/>.

The EU, with almost 6% of global population ⁽⁹⁾, is a showcase for successful climate action. Total Net Greenhouse Gas Emissions have been reduced by 37% compared to 1990, with our economy growing by 71% over the same period ⁽¹⁰⁾.

⁽⁹⁾ https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/facts-and-figures-european-union_en.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Climate Action Progress Report 2025: https://climate.ec.europa.eu/document/download/abb61407-e976-482c-b309-2c36625df8c1_en?filename=capr2025_report_en.pdf.