

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003797/25
to the Commission
Claudiu-Richard Târziu (ECR)
(30 September 2025)

Subject: Inefficiency of the Green Deal: high costs, minimal results

The report by the European Environment Agency ‘Europe’s environment 2025’ shows that despite the extensive investments and rules imposed by the Green Deal, many key targets for 2030 will not be met: only 2 out of 22 are considered to be ‘on track’, while key sectors such as agriculture and transport have not achieved significant emission reductions since 2005. At the same time, Member States, including Romania, are incurring very high costs in adapting to these policies, without seeing any tangible results, the air in big cities remains polluted, biodiversity levels continue to decline and the materials circularity rate has only increased by 1% in 15 years.

These conclusions also corroborate the warnings issued by the European Court of Auditors in its 2024 report, which highlights a lack of efficiency and coordination in the use of funding for the green transition and the fact that many of the projects funded fail to produce quantifiable results.

Given the dichotomy between the efforts required and the results achieved, how will the Commission bridge this efficiency gap and ensure that future environmental policies bring real and quantifiable benefits for the public rather than simply generating additional costs and administrative burdens for Member States and taxpayers?

Submitted: 30.9.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(21 January 2026)

The Commission shares the assessment that urgent action is needed to address the challenges presented in ‘Europe’s Environment 2025’ ⁽¹⁾.

At the same time, the report confirms that strong policies deliver real impact. Greenhouse gas emissions have gone down by 37% since 1990, while the EU economy has grown by 70%.

Premature deaths from air pollution have nearly halved. These successes are the outcome of environmental policy measures and their effective implementation.

The 2025 Environmental Implementation Review ⁽²⁾ shows that the latter is significantly less costly than consequences of inaction such as higher healthcare costs.

Slow progress in biodiversity protection, circular economy and transport emissions is a reminder that staying the course on environmental policy goals is essential, including to reap the co-benefits for strategic autonomy and economic security.

In addition to agreed measures such as the Nature Restoration Regulation ⁽³⁾ or the Emissions Trading System ⁽⁴⁾ for road transport and buildings, the Commission has presented a Water Resilience Strategy ⁽⁵⁾ and will present a Circular Economy Act in 2026.

The proposed next Multiannual Financial Framework ⁽⁶⁾ includes a 35% climate and environment spending target, providing strong public funding to reach environmental goals, and tools to crowd in private investment to reinforce Europe’s leadership in clean tech innovation.

In its recent environment omnibus, the Commission proposed simplifying rules relating to industrial emissions, circular economy, environmental assessments for permitting, and geospatial data.

The changes will reduce the administrative burden for businesses ⁽⁷⁾ while keeping the EU’s ambitious objectives to protect the environment and human health.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/europe-environment-2025>.

⁽²⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/2025-environmental-implementation-review_en.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869, OJ L, 2024/1991, 29.7.2024.

⁽⁴⁾ https://climate.ec.europa.eu/eu-action/carbon-markets/ets2-buildings-road-transport-and-additional-sectors_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

⁽⁷⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/attachment/882049/Factsheet-Environmental-Omnibus.pdf>.