(English version)

Question for written answer E-004285/25
to the Commission
Luděk Niedermayer (PPE)
(31 October 2025)

Subject: Consequences of possible non-compliance with the Effort Sharing 2030 targets

The Commission is yet to clarify how possible non-compliance with the Effort Sharing 2030 targets, as set out in Regulation (EU) 2023/857 ([1]), will be managed.

1. How will the Commission proceed if some Member States fail, even after adjusting for flexibilities, to meet their Effort Sharing 2030 targets as set out in Regulation (EU) 2023/857 and further distributed into annual emission allocations under Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/1319? As the compliance assessments will take place in 2027 and 2032 (for the periods 2021-2025 and 2026-2030, respectively), what would follow if a previously issued corrective action plan still fails to deliver the required reductions, and can the Commission please describe the steps and timing that it will take?

2. Would the Commission consider introducing financial penalties or pricing for excess emissions for individual countries failing to meet the Effort Sharing Regulation goal? If so, at what price level?

Submitted: 31.10.2025

Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(13 January 2026)

The Commission assesses annually ([1]) the progress made by Member States towards their targets under the Effort Sharing Regulation ([2]), and can request corrective action plans if progress is not sufficient. The Commission maintains regular contacts with Member States to support and help them in meeting their 2030 targets.

If the compliance checks foreseen in 2027 and 2032 reveal that a Member State has exceeded the limit set for any year, taking into account the use of flexibilities, the quantity of emissions in excess is multiplied by 1.08 and the result will be added to the emissions of the subsequent year.

If in 2032 it is found that the limit set for 2030 is exceeded, despite the available flexibilities, the general framework provided for in the treaties will apply.

The Commission will be entitled to initiate a formal infringement procedure, potentially leading to the case being brought before the Court of Justice of the European Union, which could ultimately result in financial penalties being applied to the Member State at stake.

The initial step would be for the Commission to send the Member State in question a letter of formal notice. There is no general predetermined time frame for the initiation of the infringement procedures or their duration.

The Commission has no plans to propose a legislative amendment to the Effort Sharing Regulation foreseeing financial penalties or pricing for excess emissions for individual countries failing to meet the Effort Sharing Regulation.

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[1] Regulation (EU) 2023/857 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 April 2023 amending Regulation (EU) 2018/842 on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement, and Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 (OJ L 111, 26.4.2023, p. 1).

([1]) In its annual Climate Action Progress Report.

([2]) Regulation (EU) 2018/842 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and amending Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 (OJ L 156, 19.6.2018, p. 26); ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/842/2023-05-16.