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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission's position on deliberate large-scale interventions in the Earth's natural systems (referred to as 'geoengineering') is clearly set out in the Joint Communication of the Commission and the High Representative on the Climate-Security Nexus of 28 June 2023¹. It notes that such technologies are attracting more attention, and states that 'the risks, impacts and unintended consequences that these technologies pose are poorly understood, and necessary rules, procedures and institutions have not been developed'. The Joint Communication also stresses that the EU, guided by the precautionary principle 'will support international efforts to assess comprehensively the risks and uncertainties of climate interventions, including solar radiation modification, and promote discussions on a potential international framework for its governance, including research related aspects'.

In 2024, following a Commission request for advice on solar radiation modification, the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors issued a scientific opinion², while the European Group on Ethics delivered an ethical perspective³. Both groups stressed that these technologies are not ready to be deployed and cautioned the Commission to maintain the primary goals of its climate policy: reducing emissions and adapting to inevitable changes.

The Commission's Strategic Foresight Report 2025⁴ also points to the need for the EU to show ethical and science-based leadership in responsible and precautionary approaches for such new controversial technologies, including by fostering global collaborative governance structures to deal with potential risks, benefits and distributional effects. In this context, the Commission is monitoring the issue.

¹ JOIN/2023/19 final.

² <https://scientificadvice.eu/advice/solar-radiation-modification/>.

³ Commission: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Opinion on solar radiation modification – Ethical perspectives, Publications Office of the European Union, 2024, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/951016>.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategic-foresight/2025-strategic-foresight-report_en.