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Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.3.2025)

The 2040 Climate Target Communication¹ from February 2024 states that all zero and low carbon energy solutions (including renewables, nuclear, energy efficiency, storage, Carbon Capture and Storage, Carbon Capture and Utilisation, carbon removals, geothermal and hydro-energy, and all other current and future net-zero energy technologies) are necessary to decarbonise the energy system by 2040. The 2040 Impact Assessment confirms this. Zero and low carbon solutions, including both renewables and nuclear energy, are especially needed in the electricity sector as electricity's share in final energy consumption is expected to double from roughly 25% today to about 50% by 2040.

A greater share of renewables in 2040 is necessary for the EU to meet its climate goals in the most cost-effective manner, while also enhancing energy independence, energy affordability, create jobs and support economic growth. In that context, and as indicated in the Mission Letter of the Commissioner for Energy and Housing, the Commission will propose initiatives to boost renewable energy including by working on a renewables target for 2040, working with all the energy stakeholders and in close cooperation with all Member States. This target will contribute to reinforce investor predictability, support innovation and market growth for clean technologies. As reaffirmed by the Commissioner for Energy and Housing in his hearing², it is equally important to ensure technology neutrality while decarbonising our economy, in full respect of the Treaty and the right of Member States to choose their energy mix.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2024%3A63%3AFIN>

² https://hearings.elections.europa.eu/documents/jorgensen/jorgensen_verbatimreporthearing-original.pdf