

ZEP RESPONSE TO [ROADMAP](#) ON 2030 CLIMATE TARGET PLAN

The Zero Emissions Platform (ZEP) is a European Technology and Innovation Platform (ETIP) under the Commission's Strategic Energy Technologies Plan (SET-Plan), and acts as the EU's technical adviser on the deployment of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), and Carbon Capture and Utilisation (CCU).

ZEP welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Inception Impact Assessment for the Roadmap on 2030 Climate Target Plan.

Reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in a cost-efficient way remains the primary focus.

Reaching net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 is the primary goal of the European Union's climate action. This objective will bring about unprecedented challenges for European citizens, regions and industries, and the industrial transition will require the deployment of all technologies available. The European Union will need to preserve existing jobs across key industrial value chains while creating new ones and ensure that European regions and industries become attractive for clean investments, remaining competitive while decarbonising.

With a legally binding objective of climate neutrality by 2050, it is critical that the European Union undertakes prompt action to start a just transition towards 2050 in a cost-efficient manner.

A Europe-wide CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure will need to be urgently deployed to unlock the benefits of the readily available low-carbon technologies, such as CCS and CCU, across European regions. This shared CO₂ infrastructure will enable the early, large-scale production of clean hydrogen from natural gas with CCS and, ultimately, a clean hydrogen economy. Furthermore, cross-border CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure will enable the development of carbon dioxide removal technologies for negative emissions, which will be needed to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

Urgent action needs to be taken now to ensure that European Union pursues a cost-efficient pathway towards net-zero.

The Regulation on the governance of the energy union and climate action currently defines a trajectory towards 2030, setting out national and collective targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction. National energy and climate plans (NECPs) are part of the energy union regulatory framework and will be used to monitor national trajectories towards 2030, as well as to keep track of the collective progression. The NECPs provide a good overview of measures and policies that will be implemented locally to keep track of the journey towards the 2030 targets. According to the provisions of the European Climate Law, the NECPs will be assessed on a five-year basis to monitor member states' individual and collective performance. Such timeframe will allow for member states to adjust their trajectory when needed, hence making the NECPs a useful tool in the implementation and monitoring of 2030 targets.

Regardless of whether the European Commission will review these legislations according to climate neutrality by 2050, urgent action needs to be taken to ensure that European Union pursues a cost-efficient pathway towards net-zero. Any intermediate targets should ultimately support and help deliver a consistent transition towards the goal of climate neutrality by 2050, supporting quick action and deploying all low-carbon technologies readily available.

