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Revision of the CO₂ emission standards for cars and vans

Introduction

The European Green Deal, adopted by the Commission in December 2019, has tackling climate change and reaching the objectives of the Paris Agreement and other environmental issues (including addressing air pollution) at its core. One of its central elements is the 2050 climate neutrality objective, which the Commission proposed in 2018 and the European Council and Parliament endorsed (see European Council conclusions of 12 December 2019; European Parliament resolution of 14 March 2019; European Parliament resolution of 28 November 2019). The Commission has proposed to enshrine climate neutrality into EU law. In order to set the EU on a sustainable path to achieve climate neutrality by 2050, the Commission has also proposed a net EU-wide, economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction target by 2030 compared to 1990 of at least 55% in its Communication on stepping up Europe's 2030 climate ambition.

Building on the existing 2030 legislation and the Communication on stepping up the EU's 2030 climate ambition, the Commission will review and propose to revise, where necessary, the key relevant legislation by June 2021. This will include a coherent set of changes to the existing 2030 climate, energy and transport framework, notably related to the EU Emissions Trading System Directive, the Effort Sharing Regulation and the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation, CO₂ Emissions Performance Standards for Cars and Vans, the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive, the Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive.

Each sector must contribute to reaching the EU's climate objectives. Transport is the only sector whose greenhouse gas emissions are higher than in 1990 and where emissions are growing. Road transport, which today accounts for a fifth of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions and increased its emissions by over a quarter since 1990, has a key role to play. As highlighted in the European Green Deal, in order to contribute to the overall climate neutrality objective for 2050, emissions of the transport sector need to be reduced by 90% by 2050 compared to 1990.

The impact assessment accompanying the Communication on stepping up the EU's 2030 climate ambition prepares the ground for adapting climate and energy policies to help decarbonise the European economy. This initiative will look at strengthening the CO₂ standards for cars and vans, to ensure a clear pathway onwards towards zero-emission mobility. The current legislation sets reduction targets of 15% for cars and vans to be achieved from 2025, and of 37.5% for cars and 31% for vans to be achieved from 2030, all compared to 2021. In addition the regulation contains a mechanism aimed to incentivise the deployment of

zero and low emission vehicles.

This public consultation invites citizens and organisations to contribute in order for the Commission to be properly informed by public opinion in preparation for future legislative action on the $\rm CO_2$ standards for cars and vans. The results of the consultation will be summarised and published as well as be used to inform the Impact Assessment, accompanying the Commission proposal for revising the $\rm CO_2$ standards for cars and vans Regulation...

There are additional parallel public consultations on the review of the LULUCF Regulation, the Effort Sharing Regulation and the EU ETS Directive.

Guidance on the questionnaire

This public consultation consists of some introductory questions related to your profile, followed by a questionnaire. Please note that you are not obliged to respond to all questions in the questionnaire.

The Commission already held an open public consultation on increasing the 2030 climate ambition, which was open for 12 weeks from 31 March to 23 June 2020. Many high-level questions related to the increased climate ambition were asked in the context of that <u>consultation</u>. The present questionnaire therefore focuses on more specialised and detailed questions on the revision of the Regulation setting CO₂ Emissions Performance Standards for Cars and Vans in order to achieve the revised target.

At the end of the questionnaire, you are invited to provide any additional comments and to upload additional information, position papers or policy briefs that express the position or views of yourself or your organisation.

The results of the questionnaire as well as the uploaded position papers and policy briefs will be published online. Please read the specific privacy statement attached to this consultation informing on how personal data and contributions will be dealt with.

In the interest of transparency, if you are replying on behalf of an organisation, please register with the register of interest representatives if you have not already done so. Registering commits you to complying with a Code of Conduct. If you do not wish to register, your contribution will be treated and published together with those received from individuals.

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British Virgin Islands	Guyana	Niger	The Gambia
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Bulgaria	Heard Island and McDonald Islands	Niue	Togo
Burkina Faso	Honduras	Norfolk Island	Tokelau
Burundi	Hong Kong	NorthernMariana Islands	Tonga
Cambodia	Hungary	North Korea	Trinidad and Tobago
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Canada	India	Norway	Turkey
Cape Verde	Indonesia	Oman	Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands	Iran	Pakistan	Turks andCaicos Islands
Central AfricanRepublic	Iraq	Palau	Tuvalu
Chad	Ireland	Palestine	Uganda
Chile	Isle of Man	Panama	Ukraine
China	Israel	Papua New Guinea	United Arab Emirates
Christmas Island	Italy	Paraguay	United Kingdom
Clipperton	Jamaica	Peru	United States
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Japan	Philippines	United StatesMinor OutlyingIslands
Colombia	Jersey	Pitcairn Islands	Uruguay

Comoros	Jordan	Poland	US Virgin
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Congo	Kazakhstan	Portugal	Uzbekistan
Cook Islands	Kenya	Puerto Rico	Vanuatu
Costa Rica	Kiribati	Qatar	Vatican City
Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo	Réunion	Venezuela
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Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia	

* Publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only your contribution, country of origin and the respondent type profile that you selected will be published. All other personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number) will not be published.

Public

Your personal details (name, organisation name and size, transparency register number, country of origin) will be published with your contribution.

I agree with the <u>personal data protection provisions</u>

Questions

A free text section is available at the end of some of the questions to enable you to provide additional clarifications or observations.

1. Objective

As highlighted in the European Green Deal, transport is the only sector whose greenhouse gas emissions are higher than in 1990 and where emissions are growing. Road transport accounts for around 20% of transport greenhouse gas emissions today. Road transport is also a key contributor to air pollution, especially in cities. In order to contribute to the overall climate neutrality objective for 2050, greenhouse gas emissions of the transport sector need to be reduced by 90% by 2050 compared to 1990. Transport also has to contribute to the overall emission reduction of at least 55% by 2030 as set out in the Commission Communication on stepping up the EU's 2030 climate ambition. CO_2 standards drive innovations in low and zero emission automotive technologies, which are of key importance for Europe's future industrial leadership. They make more low and zero emission vehicles and models available to consumers, which could have a positive impact on the price for such vehicles. Therefore, the Commission is working to revise the CO_2 standards for cars and vans set out in Regulation (EU) 2019/631, together with other relevant legislative measures to deliver on the increased climate ambition.

In your view, how important are the following objectives for the future cars and vans CO₂ legislation?

On a scale from 1-5, with 5 representing the highest importance and 1 no importance

	1	2	3	4	5
Reducing CO ₂ emissions from cars and vans to implement the overall emissions reduction target of at least 55% by 2030 and the climate neutrality objective by 2050	0	0	0	0	•
Promoting the market uptake of zero-emission vehicles and boosting their supply so that they become more affordable	0	0	•	0	0
Strengthening the competitiveness, industrial leadership, innovation and stimulate employment in the EU automotive value chain	0	0	0	•	0
Reducing total costs of ownership for consumers	0	0	•	0	0
Contributing to reducing air pollution	0	0	0	•	0
Reducing EU's energy consumption and import dependence	0	0	0	•	0

2. Future CO₂ emissions targets for cars and vans

Regulation (EU) 2019/631 currently sets the following new vehicle fleet average $\rm CO_2$ targets compared to 2021 levels: 15% reduction for both new cars and vans from 2025 on and 37.5% and 31% reduction for new cars and vans respectively from 2030 onwards. However, in light of the proposed increased ambition of the EU's greenhouse gas emission targets for 2030 and the objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050, the Commission will revisit and strengthen the $\rm CO_2$ emission standards for cars and vans for 2030 as underlined in the Communication on stepping up the EU's 2030 climate ambition.

This section contains questions related to the future CO₂ emission target levels for cars and vans.

Target Levels

In your view, how important are the following actions related to the future CO₂ emission target levels for cars and vans to be presented in June 2021?

Scale from 1 to 5 where 5 is highest importance and 1 no importance

	1	2	3	4	5
Strengthening the 2025 CO ₂ emission targets for cars	0	0	0	0	•
Strengthening the 2025 CO ₂ emission targets for vans	0	0	0	0	•
Strengthening the 2030 CO ₂ emission targets for cars	0	0	0	0	•
Strengthening the 2030 CO ₂ emission targets for vans	0	0	0	0	•
Setting stricter CO ₂ emission targets for new cars and vans for 2035	0	0	•	0	0
Setting stricter CO ₂ emission targets for new cars and vans for 2040	0	0	•	0	0

The proposal for a European Climate Law, in line with the European Green Deal, set the objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050. The Communication on stepping up the EU's 2030 climate ambition highlights that to achieve climate neutrality and ensure that sectors with emissions that are more difficult to abate have access to sufficient quantities of renewable and low carbon fuels, conventional cars will need to gradually be displaced by zero emissions vehicles.

In your view, in order to contribute to the climate neutrality by 2050 objective, by when should CO₂ standards become so strict that all new cars/vans are zero-emission vehicles?

	by 2035	by 2040	after 2040	The CO ₂ standards should not become so strict that all new vehicles are zero-emission
For cars	0	0	0	•
For vans	0	0	0	•

Do you have any additional comments on the levels of the future targets? If so, they can be added below:

1000 character(s) maximum

CO2 emission targets should be strict only if revision of CO2 standards by adapting emission calculation includes well-to-wheel LCA approach

Timing of the targets

In the current Regulation, the same fleet targets apply for five years before becoming stricter. Other options could be considered to ensure an effective emission reduction trajectory.

Please indicate to what extent you agree with the following statements:

Scale from 1 to 5 where 5 is highest agreement and 1 is no agreement. Not all statements need to be rated.

	1	2	3	4	5
The same targets should remain applicable for 5 years before being strengthened, as in the current legislative framework	0	0	0	0	•
The targets should be strengthened every year.	•	0	0	0	0
In case targets become stricter more frequently, additional flexibility should be provided as regards annual compliance. For instance with banking and/or borrowing, so that overachievement in a given year can be carried over to subsequent years and/or underachievement in a given year can be compensated by overachievement in subsequent years.	0	0	0	0	•

3. Incentivising zero- and low-emission vehicles

The following questions relate to specific elements aimed to enhance the uptake of zero- and low-emission vehicles (ZLEV) such as plug-in hybrid vehicles, battery electric vehicles and fuel cell electric vehicles.

In addition to the binding CO₂ emission targets for manufacturers, Regulation (EU) 2019/631 contains a mechanism to incentivise the deployment of ZLEV, which are defined as vehicles with tailpipe CO₂ emissions between 0 and 50 g/km. A "one-way" crediting system is introduced from 2025 on. This means that the specific CO₂ emission target of a manufacturer will be relaxed if its share of ZLEV, expressed as a percentage of its total number of vehicles registered in a given year, exceeds the benchmarks set out in the Regulation. Exceeding the benchmark level by one percentage point will decrease the manufacturer's CO₂ target (in g CO₂/km) by one percent, and this target relaxation is capped at a maximum of 5%. Manufacturers who do not meet the ZLEV benchmark face no consequences.

For calculating the share of ZLEV in a manufacturer's fleet to be compared against the benchmark levels, an accounting rule applies, which gives a greater weight to ZLEV with lower emissions. In addition, during the period 2025 to 2030 and for cars only, a multiplier of 1.85 is applied for counting ZLEV registered in those Member States which had the lowest ZLEV share in 2017.

In order for the CO₂ emission targets legislation for cars and vans to contribute to the 2030 -55% target and the 2050 climate neutrality objective, it has to provide a strong incentive for the deployment of ZLEV. With this respect, different alternative options could be envisaged to incentivize ZLEV, as described below.

In your views, what are the main barriers for market uptake of zero-emission vehicles?

1	Price of zero-emission vehicles
	Price-quality ratio of key components like batteries
	Availability of recharging/refuelling infrastructure
	Limited range
	Availability of vehicles models
	Other

For the period up to 2030

Please indicate to what extent you agree with the following statements on the incentive system for cars and vans:

Scale from 1 to 5 where 5 is highest agreement and 1 is no agreement.

	1	2	3	4	5
In addition to the CO ₂ targets, a mechanism incentivising zero- and low- emission vehicles should be maintained	0	0	•	0	0

Please indicate to what extent you agree with the following statements on the incentive system for cars and vans:

Vehicles eligible for the incentive system:

Scale from 1 to 5 where 5 is highest agreement and 1 is no agreement. Not all statements need to be rated.

	1	2	3	4	5
Only zero emission vehicles	•	0	0	0	0
All vehicles with emission below 50 g CO ₂ /km (as in the current Regulation)	0	0	0	•	0
Only vehicles with emissions below a lower threshold than 50 g CO ₂ /km	0	•	0	0	0
Other options	0	0	0	0	•

Please specify:

1000 character(s) maximum

The incentive system should consider use of of renewable fuels such as biomethane, renewable diesel and power- to-X. Allowing only zero-emission cars stops developing better cars with combustion engines that also use low-carbon fuels.

Incentive type:

	1	2	3	4	5
The one-way crediting system should be maintained in its current form	0	0	0	0	0

The one-way crediting system should be replaced with an obligation for each manufacturer to register a certain share of ZLEV (i.e. mandate)	0	•	0	0	0
Other options	0	0	0	0	0

Link with the CO₂ target:

Scale from 1 to 5 where 5 is highest agreement and 1 is no agreement.

	1	2	3	4	5
The ZLEV benchmark/mandate levels should be adapted to the new targets. In particular, the benchmark levels should increase when targets levels are increased	0	0	0	0	0

For the period after 2030

Please indicate to what extent you agree with the following statements on the incentive system for cars and vans:

Scale from 1 to 5 where 5 is highest agreement and 1 is no agreement.

	1	2	3	4	5
In addition to the ${\rm CO}_2$ targets, a mechanism incentivising zero- and low-emission vehicles continues to be needed, even if ${\rm CO}_2$ targets become stricter	0	0	0	0	0

Please indicate to what extent you agree with the following statements on the incentive system for cars and vans:

Vehicles eligible for the incentive system:

Scale from 1 to 5 where 5 is highest agreement and 1 is no agreement. Not all statements need to be rated.

	1	2	3	4	5
Only zero emission vehicles	•	0	0	0	0
All vehicles with emission below 50 g CO ₂ /km (as in the current Regulation)	0	0	0	•	0
Only vehicles with emissions below a lower threshold than 50 g CO ₂ /km	•	0	0	0	0
Other options	0	0	0	0	•

Please specify:

1000 character(s) maximum

All vehicles under 50 g Co2/km when well-to-wheel LCA approach is included in emission calculation. This mean advanced biofuels, e-fuels, biomethane etc.

Incentive type:

Scale from 1 to 5 where 5 is highest agreement and 1 is no agreement. Not all statements need to be rated.

	1	2	3	4	5
The one-way crediting system should be maintained in its current form	0	0	0	0	0
The one-way crediting system should be replaced with an obligation for each manufacturer to register a certain share of ZLEV (i.e. mandate)	0	0	0	0	0
Other options	0	0	0	0	0

Link with the CO₂ target:

Scale from 1 to 5 where 5 is highest agreement and 1 is no agreement.

	1	2	3	4	5
The ZLEV benchmark/mandate level should be adapted to the new targets	0	0	0	0	0

Do you have any additional comment on the ZLEV incentive system? If so, they can be added below:

1000 character(s) maximum

New targets can be reached better by not changing the rules unless the rules have been recognized to be counterproductive.

4. Contribution of renewable and low carbon fuels

Under Regulation (EU) 2019/631, compliance of a manufacturer with its specific emission target is assessed against the average CO₂ emissions of its fleet as measured under the WLTP.

Other EU policies incentivise the deployment of renewable and low carbon fuels in transport, as detailed in the Communication on stepping up the EU's 2030 climate ambition. They include for instance the Renewable Energy Directive, the Energy Taxation Directive, to be revised in June 2021, the upcoming specific initiatives promoting sustainable aviation and maritime fuels, a possible expanded emissions trading system.

Please indicate to what extent you agree with the following statements:

	1	2	3	4	5
A mechanism should be introduced in the CO ₂ emission standards for cars and vans so that compliance assessment for each manufacturer takes into account the contribution of renewable and low carbon fuels.	0	0	0	0	•
The policies to decarbonize fuels and reduce emissions from cars and vans must remain in separate legal instruments	•	0	0	0	0

If a system to account for renewable and low carbon fuels is introduced when assessing compliance, please indicate to what extent you agree with the following statements:

1. With regards to the effects:

Scale from 1 to 5 where 5 is highest agreement and 1 is no agreement. Not all statements need to be rated.

	1	2	3	4	5
Such system will ensure a holistic approach to road transport decarbonisation	0	0	0	0	•
More renewable and low-carbon fuels will be made available for road transport	0	0	0	0	•
More renewable and low-carbon fuels in road transport will come at the expense of the availability of those fuels for other sectors/transport modes which face steeper challenges to decarbonize (e.g. aviation/maritime)	0	•	0	•	0
This will be incompatible with EU efforts to increase efficiency and reduce energy consumption	0	•	0	0	0
Such system will no longer ensure clear and distinct responsibilities and accountability for vehicles manufacturers and fuels suppliers	0	•	0	0	0
This could weaken the signal for innovations that are needed to make vehicles on the road zero-emission in time for the EU's 2050 climate neutrality	0	•	0	0	0
The CO ₂ emission standards for cars and vans should be tightened more rapidly in order to maintain the overall level of ambition	0	0	0	0	•
Air pollution co-benefits would not be achieved in the same degree	0	0	0	0	0

2. With regards to the design of the mechanism

	1	2	3	4	5
Only renewable and low-carbon fuels actually used in cars and vans in a particular year should be taken into account to assess compliance with CO ₂ emission standards for these types of vehicles	•	0	0	0	0
To avoid double counting, renewable and low-carbon fuels should be counted either towards the targets set in fuels related legislation or to assess compliance under the CO_2 emission standards for cars and vans	•	0	0	0	0
Renewable and low-carbon fuels should be counted according to their actual greenhouse gas emission savings over the whole lifecycle	0	0	0	0	•
All renewable and low-carbon fuels (such as sustainable biogas, biomethane and biofuels, renewable and low-carbon hydrogen or synthetic fuels) should be taken into account, as long as they meet the minimum sustainability criteria set under the Renewable Energy Directive	0	0	0	0	•

6. Other elements of the regulatory approach

Regulation (EU) 2019/631 includes a monitoring and reporting system and flexibilities allowing a more cost-effective implementation, such as the possibility for pooling, credits for the uptake of eco-innovations, an exemption for very small manufacturers, and a derogation possibility for small volume manufacturers.

In your opinion, do any of the following provisions need to be changed?

	Yes	No	Neutral
Monitoring and reporting provisions	0	0	•
Ecoinnovation	0	0	•
Pooling	0	0	•
Exemption for manufacturers registering less than 1,000 vehicles per year	0	0	•
Small Volume derogations	0	0	•

In your opinion, Are there other aspects of the Regulation that need to be addressed? If so, which ones?

1000 character(s) maximum						

7. Impacts

Do you agree with the following statements on the likely impacts of strengthened CO₂ standards for cars and vans?

	1	2	3	4	5
The EU automotive industry will increase investments in zero- emission technologies	0	0	0	0	•
The competitiveness of the EU automotive industry on the global market will be increased	0	0	•	0	0
Lower income social groups will benefit from an economic perspective thanks to lower cost of ownership of a car (for example reduced upfront cost of EVs, reduced energy/fuel costs)	•	0	0	0	0
Macroeconomic benefits can be expected, on both GDP and jobs	0	0	•	0	0
Job losses in the automotive value chain can be expected as a result of decreasing production of conventional powertrains	0	0	0	•	0

New skills and qualifications for workers in the automotive value chain will be needed	0	•	0	0	©
Co-benefits in terms of better air quality, especially in urban areas, can be expected	0	0	0	0	•
Co-benefits in terms of energy dependency can be expected	0	0	0	•	0

Which other impacts are relevant in your opinion?

10	1000 character(s) maximum						

What additional measures should be set up to ensure a socially acceptable and just transition towards zero-emission mobility, taking into account its social effects throughout the whole automotive value chain in particular in those regions particularly dependent on automotive jobs?

1000 character(s) maximum						

8. Any additional comments

If you have any comments or supplementary information to add to your replies to the above questions:

1000 character(s) maximum

There isn't any 'one solution fit for all', but all sustainable solutions for emission reductions are needed - and regulations should support those as technology-neutrally as possible. Temperature and distances vary in different EU member countries

Should you wish to provide additional information (for example a position paper) or raise specific points not covered by the questionnaire, you can upload your additional document here.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this public consultation. The document is an optional complement and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.

Please upload your file

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

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Contact

CLIMA-C04-ARES@ec.europa.eu



5 February 2021

Position on the Revision of Performance Standards for CO2 emissions of Cars and Vans

The Bioenergy Association of Finland represents the interests of its over 240 member organizations ranging from land ownership to forest and energy companies, as well as technology and research in the field.

General views on Implementation of the EU 2030 Climate Target

With a view to investments in the bioenergy sector in 2020s', the year 2030 is close. Therefore, the Bioenergy Association of Finland believes, **it is unnecessary to reopen all the EU energy and climate legislation on the table in order to achieve the new climate target set in December 2020**. The revisions of the legislations were only recently agreed, and implementation is still work in progress. The more legislations are reopened, the more uncertain the operating environment of the industry becomes. An uncertain operating environment has a negative impact on investment, which is indispensable for the achievement of the required transition. We note that the scenarios explored in the impact assessment have not even considered options, where e.g. the Renewable Energy Directive or the Energy Efficiency Directive are left untouched.

We strongly support that the new EU climate target is mainly targeted by reducing emissions from fossil fuels. The EU ETS needs to be the main vehicle in delivering additional emission reductions, supported by the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR). Carbon sinks are negative emissions and from the climate perspective desirable. The LULUCF sector already compensates emissions from other sectors and the enhanced 2030 ambition does not automatically imply that LULUCF ambition would need to be changed. The new EU target now accounts for removals in full (unlike the current 40 % target). A large carbon sink in the LULUCF sector thereby implies a large contribution to the common EU target. Similarly, an emission in the LULUCF sector implies a withdrawal from the common EU target. As a consequence, it is of utmost importance that the Member States are allowed to utilise their own carbon sinks in the respective accounting of emissions to achieve their own climate neutrality targets.

Specific positions on Performance Standards for CO2 emissions of Cars and Vans

We support enhancing the performance standards for CO2 emissions of cars and vans already from 2025 onwards (and 2030). This will support faster development of the road transport sector and the achievement of the new enhanced EU 2030 Climate Target. Performance standards should be further enhanced in the 2035-2040 timeframe.

Any potential support system should take into account and include the use of sustainable liquid and gaseous biofuels and synthetic fuels (emissions less than 50 gCO2/km in a well-to-wheel accounting).