

Brussels, 6 June 2025
(OR. en)

9704/25

LIMITE

CLIMA 189
ENV 432

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: The EU at COP30 – stocktake and road ahead
- Exchange of views

1. To guide the exchange of views on the abovementioned topic at the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 17 June 2025, the Presidency has prepared the attached note and questions for Ministers.
2. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to take note of the Presidency note and questions and forward them to the Council for the exchange of views.

The EU at COP30 – stocktake and road ahead**- Exchange of views -****I. INTRODUCTION**

The Paris Agreement set the overarching goal to hold “the increase in the global temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial level”.

Taking into account the Paris Agreement goals, the EU committed in 2019 to reach climate neutrality by 2050, and in 2021 it adopted the European Climate Law¹, which sets a binding objective of climate neutrality in the EU by 2050 and an intermediate target of domestic reduction of net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990.

II. NEXT ROUND OF NDCS

The Paris Agreement requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Parties are requested to update their NDCs every five years, with the next round of submissions due ahead of the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP30), which will take place on 10-21 November 2025 in Belém, Brazil. In their next NDCs, Parties are expected to communicate their emissions reduction commitments by 2035.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 (‘European Climate Law’).

According to the first Global Stocktake, concluded at COP28 in Dubai in 2023, Parties should prepare NDCs that are economy-wide, cover all greenhouse gases, are aligned with the 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal, and are transparent and comparable.

The UNFCCC Secretariat has set a deadline of 30 September for the submission of the updated NDCs. On the basis of the submitted NDCs, the UNFCCC Secretariat will draft an NDC synthesis report, synthesising information from the latest NDCs and providing a picture of governments' climate actions and global commitments regarding emissions reductions. The synthesis report will provide valuable information regarding the pursuit of the Paris Agreement temperature goal of keeping global warming below 1.5°C.

III. EU NDC

The EU, as a Party to the Paris Agreement, submits a single, joint NDC on behalf of the EU and its Member States. The submission of this NDC requires consensus among Member States.

The EU and its Member States submitted an updated and enhanced NDC to the UNFCCC in September 2020, communicating its target of a net domestic reduction of at least 55% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990. In October 2023, after the adoption of the Fit for 55 legislative framework, the EU NDC was updated with details on policies relevant to the implementation of the NDC.

The timely submission of the EU's next NDC is crucial for the credibility of the EU in its leadership role in the context of the multilateral climate efforts within the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

The Working Party on International Environment Issues (Climate Change) started the preparation of the EU NDC in March 2025 and discussed it on three occasions based on a Commission draft proposal. Pending the publication of the legislative proposal on amending the European Climate Law, the discussion has so far been limited to the narrative part of the NDC.

The draft text includes a comprehensive overview of EU climate measures and progress in the implementation of the EU's NDC. Text on climate resilience and adaptation, climate action for people and on climate consistent financial flows is also included. At this stage, placeholders have been included for politically open issues such as the methodology used to determine the headline target, the value of the headline target itself and the timeframe for the target (i.e. 2035 or 2040). An agreement on the political elements of the NDC needs to be found before the September deadline.

Possible ways forward to determine the headline target of the next EU NDC include deriving it from the forthcoming amendment to the European Climate Law once agreed; basing it on the line trajectory of the current EU legally binding commitments; or expressing it as a range informed by the agreed targets and officially reported national projections.

Questions to ministers:

What are your priorities for the political elements of the NDC?

What could be considered as a negotiating offer to our key global partners in this process?

In your view, how can the EU ensure that its next NDC demonstrates ambition aligned with the Global Stocktake while remaining feasible and acceptable to all Member States?
