



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.03.2022
C(2022) 1387 final*

*Miloš Vystrčil
President of the Senát
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the following documents:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulations (EU) 2018/841 as regards the scope, simplifying the compliance rules, setting out the targets of the Member States for 2030 and committing to the collective achievement of climate neutrality by 2035 in the land use, forestry and agriculture sector, and (EU) 2018/1999 as regards improvement in monitoring, reporting, tracking of progress and review {COM(2021) 554 final},*
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2018/842 on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 contributing to climate action to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement {COM(2021) 555 final} and*
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 {COM(2021) 572 final}.*

These proposals form part of a broad package of interconnected measures designed to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 across Member States. They will also pave the way to achieving climate neutrality by 2050, in line with the binding objectives set out in the European Climate Law¹.

In its Opinion, the Senát requests the Commission to prepare an impact study describing the specific feasibility of the proposed measures and quantifying the effects of the planned changes, especially the costs and benefits for the Czech Republic.

In response to this request, the Commission would like to offer the following explanations.

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') – OJ L 243, 9.7.2021, p. 1-17.

Before presenting its policy initiatives, the Commission conducted various impact assessment studies in order to analyse the opportunities and costs of the green transition. First, in September 2020, a comprehensive impact assessment² underpinned the Commission's proposal to increase the EU's 2030 net emissions reduction target to at least 55%, compared to 1990 levels. This assessment showed that this target is both achievable and beneficial. Second, the specific legislative proposals under the 'Fit for 55' package are also supported by detailed impact assessments³, taking into account the interconnection with other parts of the package. Where applicable, Member State specific impacts are captured in various ways, based on an EU reference scenario consulted with Member States and projections of additional measures taking into account remaining mitigation potential.

Turning to the Effort Sharing Regulation proposal⁴, the proposal recognises the different starting points and capacities of each Member State (fairness criterion) in the proposed national emission reduction targets, which have been set primarily based on gross domestic product per capita. As a result, the target proposed for the Czech Republic is lower than had it been exclusively based on cost efficiency criteria. Moreover, under the proposal, Member States can continue using the 'flexibilities' provided for in the Effort Sharing Regulation.

Over the course of 2020 and 2021, the Commission was in frequent informal exchanges with Czech government officials, especially regarding issues related to forest calamities and their impact on the land use, land use change and forestry sector. The land use, land use change and forestry reference scenario for the Czech Republic takes into account the current circumstances of natural disturbances in forest land. In addition, the Commission proposes a better mechanism for Member States dealing with natural disturbances (see Art 13b of the proposal to amend the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation).

The main policy scenario (the so-called MIX scenario) combines different policy proposals for the period up to 2030. In addition to this scenario, for land use, land use change and forestry, the Commission also assessed specific mitigation potentials by land use categories for different carbon price levels.

All this information is available – at Member State level – on the modelling webpage for the reference scenario⁵ and the policy scenarios⁶. It was also communicated to the Czech Republic on 4 August 2021⁷. Reference scenario details are described in the EU

² See SWD(2020) 176 final
(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020SC0176>).

³ See SWD(2021) 611 final for the Effort Sharing Regulation proposal.
(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021SC0611>) and
SWD(2021) 609 final for the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) proposal.
(<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=SWD:2021:609:FIN>).

⁴ COM(2021) 555 final

⁵ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/data-and-analysis/energy-modelling/eu-reference-scenario-2020_en

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/energy/data-analysis/energy-modelling/policy-scenarios-delivering-european-green-deal_en

⁷ Document Ares(2021)4995354.

Reference scenario 2020 report⁸ and the land use, land use change and forestry Impact Assessment⁹.

The points made above are based on the initial proposals presented by the Commission, which are currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.

The Commission hopes that these comments address the issues raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-President*

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

⁸ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/96c2ca82-e85e-11eb-93a8-01aa75ed71a1>

⁹ See SWD (2021) 609 final (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=SWD:2021:609:FIN>), specifically section 10.4 and 10.5.