



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.10.2020
C(2020)7570 final*

*Tomáš VALÁŠEK
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
of the Národná Rada
Námestie Alexandra Dubčeka 1
SK – 812 80 BRATISLAVA*

*cc. Boris KOLLÁR
President of the Národná Rada
Námestie Alexandra Dubčeka 1
SK – 812 80 BRATISLAVA*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Národná Rada for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 (European Climate Law) {COM(2020) 80 final}.

This proposal forms part of a broader package of ambitious actions announced in the Commission's European Green Deal Communication¹. The European Green Deal launches a new growth strategy for the EU and reaffirms the Commission's ambition to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050. With its proposal for a European Climate Law, the Commission proposes to enshrine the 2050 climate-neutrality objective in legislation, to set the long-term direction, to provide predictability for investors, and to ensure transparency and accountability. In September this year, based on a comprehensive impact assessment, the Commission proposed an increased EU target for 2030 of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% compared to levels in 1990². The Commission proposed to include the increased EU 2030 target in the European Climate Law Regulation³.

The Commission welcomes the Národná Rada's support for incorporating the 2050 climate-neutrality objective into EU law. It takes note of the views and concerns of the Národná Rada and would like to make the following comments in response to the issues raised in its Opinion.

As regards the pace and manner of reaching climate neutrality by individual Member States, the Commission would like to clarify that the climate-neutrality objective set out in the proposal is Union-wide, without prescribing by what date individual Member

¹ COM(2019) 640 final.

² COM(2020) 562 final.

³ COM(2020) 563 final.

States should be climate-neutral. Fairness and solidarity among Member States are important principles reflected in the proposal.

As regards the empowerment to adopt delegated acts setting out a trajectory at Union level to achieve over time the EU 2050 climate-neutrality objective, we would like to clarify that this trajectory is to be used by the Commission as a tool to assess progress towards achieving the climate-neutrality objective and to assess the effectiveness of existing policies. The proposal provides that the starting point and end point for the trajectory, as well as the criteria to be considered when setting the trajectory, are set by the co-legislators; thus the Commission considered that the delegation does not include any “essential element” within the meaning of Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. As underlined a few times, the Commission is always willing to engage in a debate on which procedures are the best option to achieve the desired result: a clear and verifiable pathway towards climate neutrality in 2050.

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

The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by the Národná Rada and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Národná Rada in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
Executive Vice-President*

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*