

January 18, 2024

## EU Charts Ambitious Path to Climate Neutrality with 2040 Targets and Vehicle Standards

**Key policies:** *European Climate Law, Paris Agreement, Fit for 55 Package, Social Climate Fund, Just Transition Mechanism, Critical Raw Materials Act, CO2 Standards for Heavy-Duty Vehicles (HDVs), PESETA IV Assessment, European Green Deal, Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation*

The European Commission has welcomed the provisional political agreement between the European Parliament and Council, which strengthens CO2 emissions standards for new heavy-duty vehicles (HDVs). These new regulations aim to align the transport sector with the EU's broader climate ambitions, targeting zero-emission mobility by 2050.

### Key Reduction Targets

The agreement introduces a phased reduction in CO2 emissions from HDVs, compared to 2019 levels:

- **45% reduction** from 2030 to 2034.
- **65% reduction** from 2035 to 2039.
- **90% reduction** from 2040 onwards.

To promote cleaner public transport, urban buses must achieve a 90% reduction in emissions by 2030 and transition fully to zero-emission models by 2035.

### Expanded Scope

The revised regulation expands its reach to include almost all truck types by 2035, as well as urban and long-distance buses and trailers. Specific emissions reduction targets for trailers and semi-trailers have also been set at **7.5%** and **10%**, respectively, starting in 2030.

### Supporting Zero-Emission Transition

The deal includes a 2027 review to assess the regulation's effectiveness, covering:

- Inclusion of small lorries.
- CO2-neutral fuel certification methodologies.
- Full lifecycle CO2 emissions accounting for new HDVs.

By offering clear guidelines, the agreement encourages investments in zero-emission technologies and infrastructure, such as charging and refueling stations.

### Background and Next Steps

Heavy-duty vehicles contribute over **25% of road transport greenhouse gas emissions** in the EU, underscoring the urgency of these measures. The proposed regulation stems from the European Green Deal and the February 2023 draft to meet climate neutrality goals by 2050.

The agreement now awaits formal approval by the European Parliament and Council. Once ratified, it will become law and be published in the EU's Official Journal.

### **Impact on Industry and Citizens**

Commissioner for Climate Action, Wopke Hoekstra, remarked, "The agreement will make trucks and buses less polluting, improve air quality, and strengthen European industry's competitiveness in zero-emission vehicles."

By advancing these measures, the EU sets a global example in balancing environmental priorities with industrial innovation and economic growth.

Source: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_287](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_287)