



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
CLIMATE ACTION
Directorate B – Carbon Markets and Clean Mobility
CLIMA.B.3 – Mobility (I): Road

Brussels

Dear Ms Riemer, Ms von Kirchbach,

Thank you for your message and letter of 18 December 2025 addressed to President von der Leyen and several Commissioners, concerning the CO₂ emission standards for new cars and vans. I am replying on the President's behalf.

The EU has committed to reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990, and to reaching climate neutrality by 2050. These objectives are enshrined in the [European Climate Law](#). Delivering on our climate ambition calls for ambitious policies and action to ensure a swift and sufficient decrease in emissions from all sectors, including transport, which is the only sector where emissions are still above 1990 levels.

The decarbonisation of our economy is also an opportunity for the competitiveness of EU businesses. The European automotive sector is an indispensable part of a successful European economy, is sustaining millions of jobs and driving technological innovation, and its global leadership must be maintained. However, the sector is undergoing a structural transformation and serious competitiveness challenges. The EU must take advantage of the enormous opportunities offered by clean mobility as well as automated and connected driving.

In this context, the Commission adopted on 5 March 2025 an [Industrial Action Plan for the European automotive sector](#). The Action Plan sets out concrete measures to help secure the global competitiveness of the European automotive industry and maintain a strong European production base.

We are implementing the actions set out in the plan, and are delivering on them, as demonstrated by the [Automotive Package](#) adopted by the Commission on 16 December 2025, which includes a proposal for amending Regulation (EU) 2019/631 setting CO₂ emission standards for new passenger cars and light commercial vehicles.

Those standards are set to drive a gradual transition towards zero-emission vehicles and provide long-term predictability for investors along the value chain. They also contribute to reducing Europe's too large dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Electromobility is playing a central role in the clean and digital transition. The market share of electric vehicles is steadily growing, both in Europe and globally. Last year, about one in five new vehicles registered worldwide were electric vehicles. This year, that share is expected to exceed one in four. In light of this global trend, it is essential to ensure that the EU industry is fully competitive on this growth market. It is therefore crucial to maintain the direction of travel, which supports the EU's competitiveness.

At the same time, we need to take into account the valid concerns raised by the European automotive sector. Following an analysis of options aimed to mitigate those concerns, the Commission has come forward with an ambitious yet pragmatic proposal to amend the CO₂ standards Regulation. While maintaining the climate ambition of the standards, it offers car and van manufacturers more flexibility in how they achieve their targets. It enhances technological neutrality and will allow continued innovation in all vehicle technologies and renewable fuels. It also incentivises the use of low-carbon steel made in the EU in vehicle manufacturing as well as the production of small electric cars made in the EU. This should support continued investment of EU industry in the transition to zero-emission mobility, and its ability to remain competitive throughout the process.

With this legislative proposal, along with the other initiatives of the Automotive Package, the Commission confirms its commitment to continue supporting the automotive industry on its path towards decarbonisation.

The Commission proposal is now up for discussion by the European Parliament and the Council.

Once the proposal is published in all EU languages, stakeholders and the public will again be provided with the opportunity to give feedback.

Thank you again for your interest in our policies and for having taken the time to share your views with us.

Yours sincerely,

Edoardo TURANO
Head of Unit