



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

**OPINION
ON COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS SECURING OUR FUTURE:
EUROPE'S 2040 CLIMATE TARGET AND PATH TO CLIMATE NEUTRALITY BY 2050
BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE, JUST AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY COM/2024/63**

14 June 2024 No 100-P-58
Vilnius

The Committee on European Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,
having taken note of Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Securing our future: Europe's 2040 climate target and path to climate neutrality by 2050 building a sustainable, just and prosperous society (COM/2024/63) (hereinafter: the 'Communication'),

having heard the information submitted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania; the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania,

having examined and approved Lithuania's Position regarding the Communication,

having regard to the conclusions of the Seimas Committee on Environment Protection of 10 April 2024 regarding the Communication,

agreeing with the doubts expressed in the conclusions of the Seimas Committee for the Future on 5 April 2024 and the conclusions of the Seimas Committee on Rural Affairs on 8 May 2024 regarding the validity, analysis, and impact assessment comprehensiveness of the proposals presented in the Communication, and *endorsing* the opinion of the Seimas Committee on Rural Affairs that economic entities should be provided with clarity on possible commitments and future aid measures and a sufficient period of time for the fulfilment of the requirements set;

emphasising the involvement of interested parties in discussions regarding both the targets that will directly affect them and the measures that will be taken to achieve these targets, and the importance of ensuring that these measures do not threaten the competitiveness or encourage the relocation of production and greenhouse gas emissions to third countries,

being in no doubt that the rapidly changing climate is not a distant future issue but a very serious threat and challenge of our times. Record increases in temperature, extreme weather events, and endangered ecosystems are impacting numerous aspects of our lives and necessitate urgent action, while inaction will only intensify the effects of climate change,

acknowledging that the Green Deal has prompted significant changes within the European Union (hereinafter: the ‘EU’); the Green Deal strategy not only fosters environmental stewardship but also transforms the economy, encourages innovation, enhances energy independence, and bolsters resilience to crises,

emphasises that over the past decade, the EU has encountered an increasing number of novel and sometimes unprecedented challenges to tackle which it has limited resources. A unified approach to the needs related to these new challenges (defence and security, climate change, migration, etc.) enables addressing the issues in a holistic way, and the fight against climate change is an excellent example of this. With the outbreak of Russia’s war against Ukraine, the Green Deal has become even more relevant. The pursuit of climate targets and the modernisation of the economy simultaneously increases Europe’s resilience by reducing its dependency on raw materials and increasing its energy independence. Reducing the economy’s dependency on fossil fuels improves the European Union’s resilience to shocks, energy security, and competitiveness;

notes that the implementation of the Green Deal strategy has produced excellent results, which encourages the continuation of the policy, but **acknowledges** that not all the goals are being implemented smoothly both in Lithuania and the EU. There are a number of technological, economic and political challenges. The underlying reasons need to be evaluated and taken into account in any further decision-making;

takes the view that, before deciding on more ambitious climate targets, the availability of innovative technologies in all sectors of the economy and in individual EU Member States, while maintaining the principle of geographical balance; the practical and financial capacity of the Member States to meet the 2030 and 2040 targets; the scale of the socio-economic impact and its distribution among the Member States must be assessed, taking into account the varying transformative capacities and national circumstances;

points out that no assessment has been performed of the specificities of the structure of the EU Member States’ economies (including industry), the financial and economic capacity to undergo the transformation and to face the emerging challenges, to achieve the 2030 and 2040 targets in a cost-effective manner, ensuring sustainable and competitive growth without causing negative socio-economic consequences for the population and small businesses (given that the majority of SMEs operate in sectors with a very limited impact);

notes that the Communication's proposal for Option 3 (the 90% target) is mainly based on innovative and advanced technologies which are at an early stage of development and/or very expensive or difficult to adapt for geographical or other reasons and whose implementation and impact are not immediately apparent;

emphasises that the timeframe for achieving results is relatively short (16 years), which requires a highly focused and integrated effort from science, business and the public sector to transform business, industry, agriculture, transport and other sectors;

considers that, before deciding on more ambitious climate targets, the availability of innovative technologies in all sectors of the economy and in individual EU Member States, while maintaining the principle of geographical balance; the practical and financial capacity of the Member States to meet the 2030 and 2040 targets; the extent of the socio-economic impact and its distribution among the Member States must be assessed, taking into account the varying transformation capacities and national circumstances;

stresses the need to ensure convergence of economic development in all EU Member States, equal efforts and a smooth transition to a sustainable economy, leaving no one behind;

is of the opinion that all efforts must be undertaken to ensure that everyone, both businesses and society, have the opportunity not only to participate in this transition, but also to benefit directly from it and that negative impacts should be minimised. It is essential to ensure that support is available to all those who need it and that it is provided in a transparent and efficient manner. This will help to ensure a smooth and equitable transition to a sustainable economy;

notes that decisions must not only be consistent, but must also be communicated in a timely and appropriate manner (early communication) so that society, businesses and other stakeholders are informed clearly and in a timely manner of upcoming changes and are able to properly prepare for them;

believes that Europe's goal of maintaining its leadership on climate change by setting an example for other regions of the world is welcome, but it must have a responsibility for its ambitions. Unreasonably ambitious targets can be unacceptable or difficult to accept in society and discredit the very idea of environmental protection. A predictable, consistent, measured and reasoned implementation of the Green Deal policy would further ensure a stable, consistent and, above all, socially just transition to sustainability that would benefit all members of society, leaving no one behind.