

C O M M U N I C A T I O N

**from the European Affairs Committee of the Federal Council
to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission
pursuant to Article 23f para. 4 of the Federal Constitutional Act
6 May 2020**

COM (2020) 80 final

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) (014922/EU XXVII.GP)

Communication to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission pursuant to Article 23f para. 4 of the Federal Constitutional Act

Even in times when everyone's attention is focused on the corona crisis, the issue of climate change should not be forgotten. It may have been pushed to the background in the public's perception, but it has not lost any of its urgency. The recovery of Europe after the COVID-19 crisis can and must go hand in hand with the greening of the economy. Both the European Parliament and the European Council have already approved the EU's long-term climate neutrality targets (Strategic Agenda 2019-2024). Numerous measures will have to be implemented in order to achieve the target of climate neutrality by 2050. Among other aspects, coherence between the individual policy areas is essential. The Federal Council reaffirms its conviction that the path to the attainment of the climate targets must be based on the use of renewable sources of energy and takes a firm stance against increased reliance on nuclear power.

Within the framework of its government programme for 2020-2024, the Federal Government set itself the target of making Austria climate neutral by 2040. To achieve this ambitious goal, the

measures provided for by the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) for the period up to 2023, communicated to the European Commission at the end of 2019, as well as the government programme must be implemented without delay. In the government programme, the Federal Government also committed to supporting the European Union in its efforts to reaffirm its position as a climate action pioneer.

As announced in the Communication of the European Commission (EC) on the European Green Deal dated 11/12/2019, the European Commission on 04/03/2020 tabled a proposal for a Regulation establishing the framework for a European Climate Law (COM (2020) 80) in order to create the legal basis for the 2050 climate neutrality target. To this end, a trajectory is to be outlined for the period from 2030 to 2050. According to the European Commission's proposal, the trajectory is to be set out in a delegated act. For the time being, however, the features of this trajectory have not yet been determined, apart from a number of criteria listed in the proposal.

In the Federal Council's opinion, the trajectory must be established as an essential element of the European Climate Law by way of the ordinary legislative procedure. The Federal Council appeals to the European Commission to show restraint in the use of the instrument of delegated acts.

In this context, the Federal Council also refers to the Uniform Opinion of the Länder of 27 April 2020 pursuant to Art.23d para.2 of the Federal Constitutional Act (Liaison Unit of the Länder within the Office of the Government Lower Austria).