



VICE-PRESIDENCY  
FOURTH OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY  
FOR THE ECOLOGICAL  
TRANSITION AND THE  
DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGE

Following the debate on the state of the Union

## Spain supports an increase in the European Union 's climate ambition to 2030

- The Spanish government is in line with the position announced by the European Commission (EC) to increase the European Union's (EU) climate objective to 2030 to achieve a reduction in emissions of at least 55% compared to 1990
- The fact that the EC is opting for the most ambitious objective on the table sends a clear signal about the EU's climate leadership and puts it in the best position to launch a green recovery as soon as possible
- This more ambitious target to 2030 will be key to harnessing the resources to be mobilised in the context of the economic recovery package agreed by European leaders in July
- The Recovery Plan launched by the EU places the ecological transition as the backbone of the process of recovery of our economies, and therefore envisages increasing the climate objective of these funds from 30 to 37%.

**16 September 2020-** Spain supports increasing the European climate objective to 2030, from at least a 40% reduction in emissions compared to 1990 to at least 55%, as announced today by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in the debate on the state of the Union.

The Vice-President and Minister for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Teresa Ribera, welcomed this proposal, which puts the EU in the best position to start a green recovery as soon as possible. "The European Commission has clearly understood that the only option for getting out of the current crisis caused by the COVID-19 is to set in motion a

Nota de press

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green recovery, which responds to the climate crisis, putting people at the centre and taking care of the environment," Ribera stressed.

The Vice-President also explained that the fact that the EC finally opted for the higher value between the two analysed - a reduction of 50 or 55% with respect to the 1990 level of emissions - in the impact assessment to which it committed itself when it presented the European Green Pact on 12 December last, "It sends a clear signal to accelerate the debate on climate ambition to 2030, so that we can conclude a political agreement as soon as possible, enabling the European Union to present a more ambitious contribution to the Paris Agreement to the United Nations before the end of the year and to demonstrate that it is maintaining its climate leadership at international level".

Spain supports the Commission's announcement of greater ambition for four main reasons: because it allows us to respond to the demands of science; because of the opportunities it creates for the economy at a crucial time when it is necessary to lay the foundations for recovery, in terms of modernising the economy, employment, improving health, or industrial development; because of the sense of social justice it represents, and because we are on track to comply with the Paris Agreement.

### **INCREASING THE CLIMATE TARGET IN THE RECOVERY FUNDS**

A more ambitious target to 2030 will be essential to harness the resources to be mobilised in the context of the economic recovery package agreed by European leaders in July. In line with the European Green Pact, the Recovery Plan launched by the EU places ecological transition at the heart of the economic recovery process.

In this sense, the agreement reached by European leaders in July is clear in terms of the commitment to climate action, establishing that 30% of the global resources of the European budget and the "Next Generation EU" programme will be allocated to climate actions.



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To make this commitment effective, the climate objective of the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, as an integral part of the "Next Generation EU", needs to be higher. In fact, the Commission's preliminary estimates suggest that this target should be around 37%, thus showing the EC's commitment to ensuring that the unprecedented resources to be mobilised in the coming years are in line with the climate ambition.

"It is very good news that in the context of green recovery at least 37% of all funds are earmarked for ecological transition. This shows the extent to which ecological transition is a vector for job creation, modernisation of industry, resilience, and strengthening of our infrastructures and our cities, making them healthier and putting people at the centre," Ribera insisted.

**CLIMATE ACTION MUST BE CROSS-CUTTING**

This show of ambition is fully shared by the Spanish government and reflects the fact that climate action cannot be a watertight compartment, but must be integrated as a backbone of European actions for recovery. "Climate action must be cross-cutting to ensure that everything we do is compatible and to prevent the rest of the actions we implement from undoing the beneficial effects of that climate action", the Vice-president stressed.

On the other hand, given that ecological transition is one of the axes of the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism, most of the eligible expenditure will have an environmental and green component beyond the purely climate objectives. Not only that, but the July agreement establishes the obligation for all European policies and programmes not only to contribute to the climate agenda but also to integrate and strengthen it by making the principle of "no harm" effective and putting the fight against climate change at the centre of European actions .



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### **SPAIN READY TO LAUNCH A GREEN RECOVERY**

The idea behind the whole economic recovery package is to make our economies more sustainable and socially and ecologically resilient in order to bring about the profound transformation that our productive systems need. All of this with a view to positively impacting Europe's goal of climate neutrality in 2050.

Spain is in a good position to participate in this transformation as it has committed itself to the climate agenda not only as one of the axes of government action but also as a vector for economic recovery. In this sense, the Government has set up a regulatory framework to take advantage of the opportunities opened up by the ecological transition in terms of modernizing the economy, reindustrializing, generating employment and attracting investment.

This framework is composed of the Climate Change and Energy Transition Bill, the Long Term Strategy for a Modern, Competitive and Climate Neutral Economy in 2050, the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan, the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2021-2030, the Just Transition Strategy, the draft Bill on Waste and Polluted Land and the Circular Economy Strategy.

In short, a framework for establishing solid foundations that will give the right signals that are essential for all actors to accompany this process and participate in the transformation of our economies and societies. Signals such as ambitious quantified climate objectives in line with the impacts we are experiencing and with what the Paris Agreement demands of us.