

In 2010, the EU submitted a pledge to reduce its GHG emissions by 2020 by 20% compared to 1990 levels. Portugal as an EU Member State is a part of the EU 2020 emission reduction target. The implementation of this target is ensured by EU legislation adopted under the “2020 climate and energy package” (2013-2020). The package introduced a clear approach to achieving the EU’s 20 % reduction of total GHG emissions from 1990 levels, which is equivalent to a 14 % reduction compared to 2005 levels. This 14% reduction objective is divided between the Emission Trading System (ETS) and Effort Sharing Decision (ESD) sectors.

While the EU ETS target is to be achieved by the EU as a whole, the ESD target was divided into national targets to be achieved individually by each Member State. Under the ESD, national emission targets for 2020 are set, expressed as percentage changes from 2005 levels. For Portugal this means a +1% target compared to 2005 levels, for 2020.

Furthermore, a 2030 target has been pledged by the EU through its Nationally Determined Contribution submitted under the Paris Agreement, and has been adopted by the EU under the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework (2021-2030). The emission reduction target is a pledge to reduce emissions by at least 40% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2030 (recently revised to be at least 55%). Similarly to the 2020 target, under the new Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), national emission targets for 2030 are set, expressed as percentage changes from 2005 levels. For Portugal this means a -17% target compared to 2005 levels.

In order to achieve these targets, Portugal has maintained the main national climate policy instruments in terms of mitigation and adaptation, and approved two new main instruments, the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Roadmap and the 2030 National Energy and Climate Plan, respectively through the Council of Ministers Resolution n.º 107/2019 of 1st of July and the Council of Ministers Resolution n.º 53/2020, of 10th of July. The National System of Policies and Measures (SPeM), regulated by the Council of Ministers Resolution n.º 45/2016, of August 26th was maintained.

Portuguese Climate Change Policy Architecture:

