



Feedback from the European Marine Board Secretariat to
the European Commission's call for evidence on
national targets and flexibilities in the
EU climate policy framework after 2030

(03/04/2026)

The European Marine Board (EMB) welcomes this initiative to review the EU climate policy framework for the post-2030 period and to consider how national climate targets can incentivise action and ensure achievement of the EU 2040 climate target. EMB is the leading European think tank in marine science policy, representing over 10,000 scientists and technical staff around Europe.

EMB stresses that rapid reductions in CO₂ emissions should remain the top priority in efforts to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) and other mitigation measures are not a substitute for reducing emissions, but may serve as a supplementary measure to help achieve these goals. The European Union should reiterate this message while implementing the European Climate Law beyond 2030. More information on this can be found in our publication on Monitoring, Reporting and Verification for marine CDR (https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/MRV_for_mCDR).

The Ocean is an intrinsic component of the global climate system. It interacts with the atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere and geosphere, influencing climate and weather, carbon and biogeochemical cycles, coastlines, biodiversity, ecosystems, and human societies and economies. The Ocean is also a critical tool in the fight against climate change, both for mitigation and adaptation measures. There are a number of ways in which the Ocean can enable climate action, including as a provider of crucial information for understanding and tracking climate change, as a source of decarbonisation and nature-based solutions (such as Blue Carbon management and offshore renewable energy), and through climate-friendly development and action within maritime sectors. More information about the role of Blue Carbon in emission reductions can be found in our document on the topic (<https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/blue-carbon>). EMB therefore calls for explicit acknowledgment of the role of, and impact on, the Ocean in a climate context within national targets. Ocean related flexibilities and enabling measures for climate and biodiversity action should be highlighted to Member States.

More information about the interactions between the Ocean and the climate system can be found at the EMB flagship document "Navigating the Future VI" (<https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/nfvi>), specifically the chapter dedicated to "Ocean and Climate". As recommended in this document, the EU should:

- Develop regulations to support implementation of Ocean-based climate solutions and transform maritime industries to become more climate-friendly;
- Promote the building of holistic coastal management plans in Member States around the concepts of adaptation and liveability and apply research on adaptation tipping points and the signal of these tipping point to inform policy changes and avoid maladaptation; and
- Encourage increased collaboration among Member States to develop joint strategies, share resources, and exchange knowledge and best practices in addressing Ocean and climate challenges on a global scale.

EMB is pleased to see that the EU will include the ‘development of the renewable energy and energy efficiency frameworks for the post-2030 decade’. However, we urge that appropriate consideration is made of the related environmental, social and infrastructure aspects to enable this to be achieved in an equitable and sustainable manner. For more information, consult EMB’s publication on European Offshore Renewable Energy (<https://www.marineboard.eu/publications/european-offshore-renewable-energy-towards-sustainable-future>).

Additional recommendations from EMB on the use of international carbon credits from a marine perspective are provided in the call for evidence running in parallel (Legal framework for the possible use of international credits towards the 2040 EU climate target under the European Climate Law).