

Summary consideration of draft Climate Plan 2025

It follows from the Climate Act that, at least once every five years, the government will again adopt a Climate Plan and submit it to the Advisory Division for its opinion. The submitted draft Climate Plan covers the period from 2025 to 2035 and describes the path to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. This is the second time the Advisory Division has written a consideration on a draft climate plan.

Four principles

In the draft Climate Plan, the Minister of Climate Policy and Green Growth (KGG) set out four guiding principles for developing climate policy in the coming years. According to the draft Climate Plan, climate policy must deliver equitable outcomes, provide economic perspective, give room for societal initiative, and take into account the coherence between the various transitions (energy, resources and food transition) that must take place simultaneously to achieve climate neutrality.

Various topics

The Advisory Division appreciates the diversity of issues addressed in the draft Climate Plan. For example, the choices for committing to green growth, the discussion of climate justice (e.g. intergenerational fairness), the focus on behavioural change and the treatment of specific topics such as carbon removal and circular economy are highly relevant.

Clear, timely and guiding choices

However, the draft plan also leaves many questions unanswered. It fails to offer clear, guiding choices. The Advisory Division stresses the importance of ensuring that these choices are made, and also that this is done in a timely manner. It recommends basing these choices on a socio-economic structural analysis: how does the Netherlands want to shape its society and economy, and what does that mean for the layout of the country? This should take into account the strong correlation between different sectors, such as electricity supply, industry and the built environment.

Concrete policies are essential

It is preferable to lay down these choices in a concrete policy agenda, making the policy predictable for all stakeholders. Timely and adequate implementation of existing climate policies should also be the government's focus in this regard. The Advisory Division also sees opportunities for improvement of the Climate Plan with regard to the theme of climate justice, while the theme of behavioural change could be more specific. It also recommends clarifying what choices the government intends to make in fleshing out the so-called policy mix.

Collaboration, participation and coordination

The Advisory Division considers concrete attention to all these topics, close collaboration with local or regional authorities and willingness to engage in public and

social participation essential to achieve climate neutrality in 2050. The Advisory Division also mentions that coordination by the KGG minister is key and that the prime minister, as chair of the Council of Ministers, can play an important role in ensuring that the KGG minister can live up to her position.