

Report of the Advisory Division of the Council of State on the first Climate Memorandum of the Dutch government

Summary

Climate goals written into Dutch law are not being met. An analysis by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) of the climate policy contained in the government's 'Climate and Energy Study 2020' (KEV) sees negligible results and little observable progress. A forecasted reduction of 34% in relation to 1990 levels falls well short of the Climate Act's objective of 49% by 2030, while the ultimate goal of 95% reduction by 2050 is beyond reach.

The government's first Climate Memorandum appeared in the middle of the corona crisis. This crisis is having an enormous impact on societies and economies around the world. But the pandemic does not make addressing global warming less urgent. In order to achieve the 2030 goals formulated by government and parliament in the Dutch Climate Act more measures will be needed. Waiting is not an option – especially when viewed against the background of the EU's proposal to further tighten the climate goal for 2030 to 55%. Going forward there must be better oversight of expected greenhouse gas reductions resulting from policy already announced which could not be included in the KEV.

New policies, existing legislation and practical realisation must be more strongly aligned in order to achieve greater impact. To speed things up, an effective, coherent and coordinated legislative *programme* is urgently needed. The list of various legislative proposals and regulations accompanying the draft Climate Memorandum is inadequate.

The Regional Energy Strategies (RES) require more far-reaching institutional embedding. While the regions have certainly been energetic in developing their prospective RES plans, in order to transition from paper to actual implementation tensions around democratic legitimacy must be assuaged, overall weighing of spatial planning interests must be more robust, and coherence between government policy, decentralised policy and decentralised implementation must be greatly improved.