

Statement on the European Climate Law

The consulting engineering perspective

22 October 2025

The European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations (EFCA) has member associations in 27 countries, representing more than 10,000 companies from the European engineering consultancy industry and related fields. Based in Brussels, EFCA is committed to facilitating constructive dialogue with European Institutions on issues impacting our industry; and engaging with international stakeholders on shared interests.

EFCA's commitment to climate leadership

EFCA strongly welcomes the recently proposed amendment to the European Climate Law and fully supports the ambitious updated target of achieving a 90% net reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040, compared to 1990 levels. This target reflects the urgency of the climate crisis and the recognition that bold action is needed. EFCA's recent reports on the resilience of Europe's [energy](#) and land [transport](#) systems have clearly identified climate-related risks as some of the most pressing challenges facing the European Union, along with water related stress. While the revised target will not immediately eliminate these threats to infrastructure, the economy and society, it represents an essential step in preventing the situation from worsening. Without decisive political will and a binding legal framework, the EU risks diverting the bulk of public and private expenditure toward repairing climate-related damage—costs that may ultimately exceed our ability to pay.

The EU still has the technological capacity, financial strength and political influence to lead by example. It has already made strides in advancing the clean energy transition, climate adaptation and resilience. However, progress has been hampered by uneven implementation and internal political obstacles, as well as unfair competition from global actors operating under less stringent rules. Europe must overcome these internal challenges to truly demonstrate that ambitious climate targets are both achievable and replicable worldwide.

Why the Climate Law amendment matters

The Climate Law amendment is beyond a technical adjustment, due to the importance of the ambition levels set but also because of their cumulative impacts. It reinforces the EU's duty to protect its citizens, its economy and contribution to the global market. Moreover, reducing carbon emissions drives optimised use of materials, thereby mitigating biodiversity loss.

Secondly, the amendment will demonstrate to other countries that the EU is fully committed to its targets on climate change and, more importantly, that these targets are achievable. Moreover, once a group of countries can do it, then experience, economies of scale and cooperation come into play, ensuring that the price of sustainable solutions becomes more affordable and accessible to all non-EU countries, and in particular those from Africa and Latin America, which need it the most. This global solidarity is not only a moral imperative but also an economic opportunity for Europe's industries and engineering expertise.

The crucial role of the consulting engineering sector

Consulting engineering firms are fundamental to Europe's climate ambitions. Their expertise is crucial in identifying and implementing effective decarbonisation strategies. Recognising and empowering this role is key to the successful delivery of EU climate targets.

Consulting engineers drive the planning and design of sustainable and resilient infrastructure. By applying holistic sustainability and life-cycle approaches, transforming complexity into operational success, they ensure that projects address both the challenges of the energy transition and climate risks. Moreover, engineers can contribute not only to risk management, but value management as well. Their expertise is crucial in reducing emissions and addressing climate adaptation measures across economic sectors and geographies. Consulting engineers are the ones implementing the solutions that tackle operational challenges while delivering a low carbon built environment.

Their contribution extends beyond new projects. Engineers also play a central role in the renovation and maintenance of existing infrastructure, work that is essential for adapting to more frequent and severe climate impacts. Governments, municipalities and private clients alike rely on their expertise when modernising and repairing vital assets.

Furthermore, consulting engineers bring a valuable global perspective. European firms are among the most experienced in managing climate-related risks worldwide, and this knowledge enables them to propose solutions tailored to diverse contexts, both within and beyond the EU.

Key enablers for achieving the climate targets in the sector

- Clearer and more ambitious frameworks for the built environment, including a harmonised definition of "net zero." Current discrepancies across Member States create confusion and slow progress. While some local adaptation is necessary, the EU must reduce fragmentation to accelerate impact.
- A harmonised EU public procurement framework that prioritises climate adaptation, quality and life-cycle value, moving decisively away from the lowest-price approach.
- A firm and consistent commitment to carbon reduction targets, enabling manufacturers to invest in green material development and sustainable technologies.
- Fair competition mechanisms that prevent distortion from companies operating under weaker climate standards, both within the EU and in third countries.
- Better funding allocation in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), prioritising projects that embed biodiversity aspects and climate resilience alongside the energy and digital transitions.
- Establish feedback mechanisms to ensure ambition is translated into actions and results.

Conclusion

The EU stands at a pivotal moment in the global fight against climate change. By acting boldly and decisively, consulting engineers can drive the transformational changes in the industry needed to achieve Europe's climate goals. The commitment and collaboration of all stakeholders are vital for building a resilient, low-carbon future. A proactive and ambitious approach will protect our communities and strengthen our economy while setting a powerful example for climate leadership. Together, we can ensure that Europe remains at the forefront of this critical mission, inspiring global cooperation and supporting sustainable solutions that benefit everyone.