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May 8th 2021 edition

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How to make long-term climate pledges add up

A German court shines a light on the murk of emissions targets





DPA

May 8th 2021



THE CLIMATE law that the German government passed in 2019 required a cut in greenhouse-gas emissions of 55%, from levels in 1990, by 2030. Climate activists saw this as insufficient. They took the government to court on the basis that, by not treating climate action seriously enough, it was denying basic rights to citizens of the future.

The court has now rejected the more ambitious aspects of that complaint. But its ruling at the end of last month did nevertheless find fault with the law. Although the target for 2030 was not in itself deemed to be inadequate, the court decided that it does pose a problem in the context of the law's longer-term aspiration to "net zero" emissions in 2050. The combination of the two pledges

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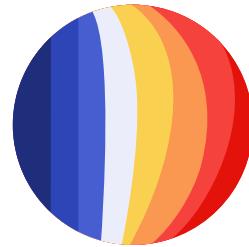


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