

EU proposes emission rules for last combustion engine cars

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A view of the exhaust pipe of a car in Erfurt, Germany, Jan. 26, 2009. The European Parliament and EU member countries have reached a deal to ban the sale of new gasoline and diesel cars and vans by 2035. EU negotiators sealed on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022, the first agreement of the bloc's "Fit for 55" package set up by the Commission to achieve the EU's climate goals of cutting emissions of the gases that cause global warming by 55% over this decade. Credit: AP Photo/Jens Meyer, file

The European Union's executive arm proposed pollution standards Thursday for new combustion engine vehicles that are expected to remain on European roads well after the 27-nation bloc bans their sale in 2035.

The so-called Euro 7 standards presented by the European Commission would apply to all cars, vans, trucks and buses sold in the EU, with the aim of lowering emissions from tailpipes, brakes and tires.

EU officials said the guidelines were expected to lower [nitrogen oxide emissions](#) from cars and vans by 35% compared to existing exhaust emission regulations for pollutants other than [carbon dioxide](#), and by 56% from buses and trucks. The standards are separate from but intended to complement the EU's climate change rules for CO₂.

The Euro 7 standards also cover harmful pollutants emitted from [vehicle tailpipes](#), brakes and tires, including ultrafine particles, hydrocarbons and [carbon monoxide](#).

The proposal will be submitted to the European Parliament and the EU's [member countries](#) with a goal of the guidelines taking effect in July 2025 for cars and vans and July 2027 for heavy-duty vehicles.

The European Automobile Manufacturers' Association was skeptical about the implementation dates and said the proposal risks slowing the transition to transportation with zero emissions.

The group said the current standards for pollutants were stringent and argued that exhaust emissions are "at a barely measurable level thanks to state-of-the art vehicle technology."

"Unfortunately, the environmental benefit of the commission's proposal is very limited, whereas it heavily increases the cost of vehicles," the

association said.

The European Commission said the new standards could be met with existing technologies and without affecting vehicle buyers.

"A moderate impact on the costs of cars—between 90 and 150 euros (dollars)—and on the cost of buses and lorries—around 2600 euros- is expected," it said.

EU lawmakers and member states reached a deal last month to ban the sale of new gasoline and diesel cars and vans by 2035. The deal was the first agreement of the bloc's "Fit for 55" package, which the European Commission set up to achieve the goal of cutting [greenhouse gas emissions](#) by 55% over this decade.

Under the deal, carmakers will be required to reduce the emissions of new cars sold by 55% in 2030, compared to 2021, before reaching a 100% cut five years later.

The EU believes that introducing new pollution norms for the last generation of combustion engines is crucial because vehicles that enter the market before the 2035 deadline would remain in service for years.

"More than 20% of cars and vans and more than 50% of the heavy-duty vehicles on our streets are expected to emit pollutants from the tailpipe up to 2050," the European Commission said. "Moreover, all vehicles, electric or not, need to emit less air pollutants, for example from brakes and tires, which are on a pathway to become the major sources of particle emissions from vehicles."

But Martin Sander, the general manager of Ford of Europe, said the sector should purely focus on the switch to all-electric instead of "diverting resources to yesterday's technology."

The commission said it was working on a further proposal to reduce CO₂ emissions produced by trucks and buses.

According to the EU, emissions from transportation are responsible for some 70,000 premature deaths each year in the bloc.

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