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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

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PE400.291v01-00

AMENDMENTS 1-58

Draft report

(PE398.365v01-00)

Riitta Myller

Mid-term review of the Sixth Community Environment Action Programme
(COM(2007)0225 - (2007/2204(INI)))

Motion for a resolution

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 1
Recital A a (new)

Aa. whereas the Commission recognises that there has been only limited progress on the fundamental issues of integrating environmental concerns into other policy areas and improving the enforcement of EU legislation,

Or. en

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 2
Recital A b (new)

Ab. whereas the Commission points to the fact that many environmental pressures are actually increasing: global emissions of greenhouse gases are rising, the loss of biodiversity is accelerating, pollution still has a major effect on public health, the amount of waste produced inside the EU continues to increase, and our ecological footprint is steadily growing; whereas this raises serious questions about the environmentally counterproductive effects of other major EU policies,

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Or. en

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 3
Recital A c (new)

Ac. Whereas it is unlikely that sustainable development will ever be achieved as long as environmental concerns are not fully integrated into all major policy areas;

Or. en

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 4
Recital B

B. whereas a clean and healthy environment *has an influence on* human well-being and *(deletion)* conditions *conducive to social development*,

Or. pl

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 5
Recital C

C. whereas well designed environmental policies can also contribute to other objectives such as increasing competitiveness, stimulating economic growth, enhancing job creation *and innovation and fostering scientific progress through the development of new, safe technologies*,

Or. pl

Amendment by Riitta Myller

Amendment 6
Paragraph 1

1. Considers it regrettable that the mid-term review of the Sixth Environment Action

Programme has been delayed by *almost a year* and deplores the fact that, on the whole, the European Union is not on schedule with the implementation of the measures planned in the Action Programme, contrary to what the Commission claims in its own mid-term review; recalls that, unlike its predecessor, the Sixth Environment Action Programme was adopted under codecision pursuant to Article 251 of the EC Treaty; calls for the EU to do everything in its power to attain the objectives agreed in the Sixth EAP, as failure to attain them would damage the EU's credibility, inter alia in the eyes of members of the public who are concerned about the state of the environment;

Or. en

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines and Françoise Grossetête

Amendment 7
Paragraph 1 a (new)

1a. *Takes the view that the interim assessment and review of the Sixth Environment Action Programme should be performed by an outside body that is independent of the Commission and that it should be backed up by objective documents drawn up by that body;*

Or. es

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines

Amendment 8
Paragraph 2 a (new)

2a. *Considers, in view of environment policy's importance to industry and the fact that it is, in general, implemented by local authorities, that it should be taken into account when legislation is drafted and that the views of industry, small business and local authorities should be represented in and listened to by consultative bodies;*

Or. es

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Françoise Grossetête

Amendment 9
Paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. *Believes that Europe must define competences and points out that the Commission's document shows confusion and internal ambiguity with regard to the competences of the Commission and of the Member States; points out that the limits of the competences and specific responsibilities of each side must be clearly established and stated or the responsibilities will slip away;*

Or. en

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, John Bowis

Amendment 10
Paragraph 3 a (new)

3a. *Points out that thematic strategies are not useful if they coincide in timing with large legislative documents, they are useful either before the emergence of the document or on their own;*

Or. en

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines

Amendment 11
Heading (to paragraphs 4-8)

Policy strategy in general

Or. es

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 12
Paragraph 5

5. Deplores the fact that the objective of halting the decline of biodiversity by 2010 will probably not be attained and that the proposed strategies for protecting the marine environment and soil will not produce concrete environmental results by 2012; notes

that greater effort is needed to assist the integration of biodiversity policy into other policy areas; draws attention to the need for appropriate funding of Natura 2000 *and other closely related priority objectives*;

Or. pl

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 13
Paragraph 6

6. Considers that, as far as chemicals are concerned, Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and establishing a European Chemicals Agency represents progress in reducing risks to human beings and the environment, *but that it has yet to prove that it will effectively do so in a significant manner, and regrets that* the Regulation does not in all respects accord with the objectives agreed in the Sixth Environment Action Programme; considers it regrettable that the thematic strategy concerning sustainable use of pesticides has been substantially delayed, and that the measures taken to improve air quality and the urban environment and to reduce noise fall far short of the objectives of the Environment Action Programme; calls on the Commission to present a revised National Emission Ceilings Directive as soon as possible; believes that it is necessary to ensure full enforcement of the Environmental Noise Directive;

Or. en

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 14
Paragraph 6

6. Considers that, as far as chemicals are concerned, Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) and establishing a European Chemicals Agency represents progress in reducing risks to human beings and the environment, although the Regulation does not in all respects accord with the objectives agreed in the Sixth Environment *and Public Health* Action Programme; considers it regrettable that the thematic strategy concerning sustainable use of pesticides has been substantially delayed, and that the measures taken to improve air quality and the urban environment and to reduce noise fall far short of the

¹ OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1, Regulation as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1354/2007 (OJ L 304, 22.11.2007, p. 1).

objectives of the Environment *and Public Health* Action Programme; calls on the Commission to present a revised National Emission Ceilings Directive as soon as possible; believes that it is necessary to ensure full enforcement of the Environmental Noise Directive;

Or. pl

Amendment by Riitta Myller

Amendment 15
Paragraph 6 a (new)

6a. *Considering indoor air quality impacts on health, urges the Commission and the Member States to support the World Health Organisation work on indoor air quality and asks the Commission to produce a Green Paper on indoor air quality as soon as possible;*

Or. en

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 16
Paragraph 7

7. Notes that on specific objectives for water protection set out in the Sixth Environment Action Programme there are no major gaps; however, calls on the Commission to ensure full implementation of the Water Framework Directive and to re-evaluate the integration of EU water protection commitments into other policies; in addition, urges the Commission to come forward as soon as possible with a proposal for a directive on cutting the phosphorus load in agriculture *as well as in detergents pursuant to Article 16 of Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on detergents*¹;

Or. en

¹ OJ L 104, 8.4.2004, p. 1.

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 17
Paragraph 7

7. Notes that on specific objectives for water protection set out in the Sixth Environment Action Programme there are no major gaps; however, calls on the Commission to ensure full implementation of the Water Framework Directive and to re-evaluate the integration of EU water protection commitments into other policies; in addition, urges the Commission to come forward as soon as possible with a proposal for a directive on cutting the *NPK* load in agriculture **and use of plant-protection products**;

Or. pl

Amendment by Evangelia Tzampazi

Amendment 18
Paragraph 8

8. Considers it regrettable that the thematic strategies on natural resources and waste have watered down the objectives of the Sixth Environment Action Programme; regrets that no concrete targets have been formulated at European level to decouple economic growth from resource use **by turning towards a sustainable model of production and consumption**; agrees that further action is needed on biowaste to encourage further diversion from landfill and ensure that the best treatment options, such as those based on mitigating climate change, are followed;

Or. el

Amendment by Antonio De Blasio

Amendment 19
Paragraph 8

8. Considers it regrettable that the thematic strategies on natural resources and waste have watered down the objectives of the Sixth Environment Action Programme; regrets that no concrete targets have been formulated at European level to decouple economic growth from resource use; agrees that further action is needed on biowaste to encourage further diversion from landfill and ensure that the best treatment options, such as those based on mitigating climate change, are followed; **further encourages support for environmentally friendly forms of waste management and measures to render more severe the consequences of landfilling of waste, which pollutes the environment**;

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 20

Paragraph 8

8. Considers it regrettable that the thematic strategies on natural resources and waste have ***unduly scaled back*** the objectives of the Sixth Environment Action Programme; regrets that no concrete targets have been formulated at European level to decouple economic growth from resource use; agrees that further action is needed on biowaste to encourage further diversion from landfill and ensure that the best ***available technologies (BATs)***, such as those based on mitigating climate change, are followed;

Or. pl

Amendment by Antonio De Blasio

Amendment 21

Paragraph 8 a (new)

- 8a. Reminds the Commission, in view of the need to use renewable energy sources, that the first-generation methods of producing biofuels raise serious questions from the point of view of sustainability and that the European Union should therefore seek to give preference to second-generation methods of biofuel production by means of support for research and development (R&D) programmes, economic incentives and appropriate amendments to the legislative background, in which connection, rather than growing crops for fuel production on useful arable land, secondary materials are used as raw materials for producing biofuels;***

Or. hu

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 22

Paragraph 9

9. Recalls ***the importance of*** full and correct implementation of the existing legislation ***(deletion)*** and considers that binding legislation remains central to meeting environmental challenges; ***(deletion)***

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines

Amendment 23

Paragraph 9

9. Recalls that full and correct implementation of the existing legislation is a priority and considers that **both** legislation **and recommendations remain** central to meeting environmental challenges; therefore asks the EU budget authorities to provide the Commission, guardian of the Treaty, with all the necessary **(deletion)** resources **and support** to ensure that the most efficient monitoring of implementation and enforcement of existing legislation is carried out;

Or. es

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 24

Paragraph 9

9. Recalls that full and correct implementation of the existing legislation is a **top** priority and considers that binding legislation remains central to meeting environmental challenges; **calls on the Commission to strengthen its activities as guardian of the Treaty**; therefore **also** asks the EU budget authorities to provide the Commission **(deletion)** with all the necessary financial and human resources to ensure that the most efficient monitoring of implementation and enforcement of existing legislation is carried out **in all Member States**;

Or. en

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines

Amendment 25

Paragraph 10

deleted

Or. es

Amendment by Lambert van Nistelrooij

Amendment 26
Paragraph 10

10. *Considers that better regulation must focus on unambiguous rules and standards, and on legislation which is linked to agreed objectives and better enforcement; considers equally, however, that Member States which already have appropriate and adequate regulation in certain fields may relax Community rules and replace them with voluntary agreements or other non-binding instruments;*

Or. nl

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 27
Paragraph 10

10. Is nonetheless concerned about the various proponents' suggestions that common regulations should be reduced and weakened, replacing them with voluntary agreements or other non-binding measures; therefore reiterates that better regulation should concentrate on unambiguous *and transparent* rules and standards *based* on legislation linked to agreed objectives, and *on* better enforcement *thereof*;

Or. pl

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 28
Paragraph 10

10. Is nonetheless concerned about the various proponents' suggestions that common regulations should be reduced and weakened, *or even replaced* with voluntary agreements or other non-binding measures; therefore reiterates that better regulation should concentrate on unambiguous rules and standards, on legislation linked to agreed objectives and better enforcement;

Or. en

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Françoise Grossetête, John Bowis

Amendment 29
Paragraph 10 a (new)

10a. Recognises that a large part of the current legislation has yet to be implemented, due to the legislation itself not addressing real needs and due to its complexity and imposing price; considers that what is needed is a review of each piece of legislation, an evaluation of the current norms and an analysis of the reasons behind the lack of implementation; believes that without action of this type there could well be a continuation of the trend toward many policies being referred to the Court of Justice, which may thus continue to be used as an instrument to develop and implement environmental policies;

Or. en

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 30
Paragraph 11

deleted

Or. pl

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines

Amendment 31
Paragraph 11

11. Commends the Commission's proposals to strengthen enforcement of environmental legislation at the national level through improved access to justice and harmonised use of **punitive** law; notes that the preventive aspects of **punitive** law contribute to better enforcement and protection of the environment;

Or. es

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Françoise Grossetête

Amendment 32
Paragraph 11 a (new)

Nature, biodiversity and climate change

11a. *Considers that the review should take due account of existing problems and the reluctance shown by many Member States to implement the habitats and Natura 2000 directives, and that thought should therefore be given to introducing incentives for landowners and local authorities to adopt constructive attitudes, with a view to rehabilitating the areas concerned and promoting their conservation; recommends, with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity, that taxation measures be taken to promote best practice and deter people from engaging in activities that generate pollution;*

Or. es

Amendment by Antonio De Blasio

Amendment 33
Paragraph 11 a (new)

11a. *Draws the Commission's attention, however, to the fact that holding out the prospect of consequences under the criminal law is not sufficient in every case to prevent illegal and at the same time environmentally polluting behaviour; stresses therefore the importance of subsequent penalties under the criminal law, particularly for the illegal dumping of hazardous waste in the territory of other countries;*

Or. hu

Amendment by Jens Holm

Amendment 34
Paragraph 12 a (new)

12a. *Is of the opinion that the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) has so far not delivered reductions in CO₂ emissions due to the overly generous allocations in emission allowances; points out that the EU has committed itself to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30% from 1990 levels by 2020; insists that the EU ETS for the post-2012 period must include a sufficiently stringent cap, full auctioning and a quantitative and qualitative limit of the use of CERs and ERUs;*

Or. en

Amendment by Jens Holm

Amendment 35
Paragraph 12 b (new)

12b. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to include the aviation sector in the EU ETS but is deeply concerned that the targets set will neither bring the sector's emissions down to sustainable levels nor improve the environmental and economic effectiveness of the EU ETS;

Or. en

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 36
Paragraph 13

13. Nevertheless, notes that the role of eco-taxation remains modest and **(deletion)** calls **for** more effort to ecological tax reform including a gradual shift of the tax burden from welfare-negative taxes (e.g. on labour) towards welfare-positive taxes, (e.g. on environmentally damaging activities, such as resource use or pollution); **(deletion)**

Or. pl

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines

Amendment 37
Paragraph 13

13. ***Calls on the Commission and the Member States, in view of the fact*** that the role of eco-taxation remains modest and does not show an increasing trend, **(deletion)** to devote more effort to ecological tax reform **(deletion)** despite the unanimity requirement in the area of taxation, ***given that*** the treaties offer the possibility of enhanced cooperation, and draws attention to the existence of the open coordination method; ***recommends, with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity, that taxation measures be taken to promote best practice and deter people from engaging in activities that generate pollution;***

Or. es

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 38
Paragraph 14

14. Notes the impetus that has been given to removing environmentally harmful subsidies; however, ***finds it unacceptable*** that no concrete steps towards the reform of environmentally harmful subsidies are expected in the near future, ***and therefore calls on the Commission to come forward with concrete proposals by the end of 2008 to gradually phase out all environmentally harmful subsidies over the next five years;***

Or. en

Amendment by Lambert van Nistelrooij

Amendment 39
Paragraph 15

15. Urges the Commission and the Member States to promote stronger and more coherent environmental policy integration in all EU policy-making, ***and also to involve regions and towns in this***; regrets both the lack of integration across different environmental legal frameworks and preparations for new legislation and the lack of integration into legislation which has primary objectives other than environmental protection;

Or. nl

Amendment by Antonio De Blasio

Amendment 40
Paragraph 15

15. Urges the Commission and the Member States to promote stronger and more coherent environmental policy integration in all EU policy-making; ***with the aim of implementing the 'health in all policies' approach which has been proclaimed in the European Union, calls for mainstreaming of environmental protection and health protection aspects into all policies***; regrets both the lack of integration across different environmental legal frameworks and preparations for new legislation and the lack of integration into legislation which has primary objectives other than environmental protection;

Or. hu

Amendment by Antonio De Blasio

Amendment 41
Paragraph 16

16. Considers that in order to achieve concrete results towards the integration of environmental considerations in other economic sectors there is a need to elaborate binding sectoral targets and timetables; ***at the same time stresses the responsibility of economic actors in individual sectors of industry for achieving long-term results in climate and energy policy;***

Or. hu

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines

Amendment 42
Paragraph 16

16. Considers that in order to achieve concrete results towards the integration of environmental considerations in other economic sectors there is a need to elaborate ***(deletion)*** sectoral targets ***on a case-by-case basis*** and timetables ***that take due account of the conditions obtaining in each country and the situation in the sector;***

Or. es

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 43
Paragraph 16 a (new)

- 16a. Is concerned by the findings of various independent studies¹²³⁴ that the Commission guidelines on impact assessments are not fully respected by Commission DGs, that the assessment and quantification of economic impacts has been emphasised at the expense of environmental, social and international impacts, that costs of legislation***

¹ *Impact Assessment of European Commission Policies: Achievements and Prospects, European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils, April 2006.*

² *Getting Proportions Right - How far should EU impact assessments go?, Institut for Miljøvurdering, April 2006.*

³ *For Better or for Worse? The EU's 'Better Regulation' Agenda and the Environment, Institute for European Environmental Policy, November 2005.*

⁴ *Sustainable Development in the European Commission's integrated impact assessments for 2003, Institute for European Environmental Policy, April 2004.*

are assessed far more than the benefits, and that short-term considerations overshadow the long-term; considers that such unbalanced impact assessments are counterproductive with regard to environment policy itself and its integration into other EU policies; calls on the Commission to take action to rectify these persistent deficiencies;

Or. en

Amendment by Lambert van Nistelrooij

Amendment 44
Paragraph 17

17. Commends the Commission for its strong commitment to enhancing the international dimension of environment policy; believes it is necessary to ensure environmental policy integration in all Europe's external actions and improve international environmental governance; **welcomes international initiatives in this field, such as FOGAR (Forum of Global Associations of Regions¹);** encourages the EU to continue promoting ambitious environmental policies and requirements;

Or. nl

Amendment by Evangelia Tzampazi

Amendment 45
Paragraph 17

17. Commends the Commission for its strong commitment to enhancing the international dimension of environment policy; believes it is necessary to ensure environmental policy integration in all Europe's external actions and improve international environmental governance **by promoting technology transfer and exchange of best practices with the developing countries;** encourages the EU to continue promoting ambitious environmental policies and requirements;

Or. el

¹ Cf. <http://www.cpmr.org/>

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 46
Paragraph 19

19. Encourages the *Commission, the relevant EU bodies and the Member States* to adopt genuinely green (*deletion*) rules *governing the issue of certificates and permits, with a view to promoting* innovation and sustainable consumption and production patterns;

Or. pl

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Françoise Grossetête, John Bowis

Amendment 47
Heading (new) (before paragraph 19 a (new))

"Better Regulation" principles in environmental policy

Or. en

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Françoise Grossetête, John Bowis

Amendment 48
Paragraph 19 a (new)

- 19a. Points out that, if better regulation is an aim, there should be a revision of the overlapping in legislation that generates a bureaucratic burden and undermines competitiveness; considers that a new policy of legislative simplification should be developed, keeping the essential objectives and basic principles, but reconsidering the way in which the annexes to directives and regulations have been drafted up to this point;***

Or. en

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, John Bowis

Amendment 49
Paragraph 19 b (new)

- 19b. Considers that the philosophical approach applied to the revision process is devoid of critical reasoning and does not analyse the reasons and grounds for the delays;***

believes that only by analysing and reflecting on the causes of these delays can the right moves be made for the future;

Or. en

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Françoise Grossetête, John Bowis

Amendment 50
Paragraph 19 c (new)

19c. *Points out that if there is a wish to improve legislative methodology and to produce practicable rules that will be easy to apply for the responsible authorities, enterprises and citizens, it is imperative to widen our interaction with civil society to include their queries and to take into account the decisions and opinion of the regions, town halls, affected industries and related associations; stresses also that the real costs and need for transformation of existing equipment must be taken into account;*

Or. en

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Françoise Grossetête, John Bowis

Amendment 51
Paragraph 19 d (new)

19d. *In light of the problems caused by the use of by-products, considers it essential to improve and disseminate information on the substitution principle, which takes into account the availability, accessibility and costs of the substitute products; points out that account must also be taken of the production and use processes, which enable the use of products that do not represent a risk for human life as they do not come into direct contact with human beings;*

Or. en

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 52
Paragraph 20

deleted

Or. pl

Amendment by Antonio De Blasio

Amendment 53
Paragraph 20 a (new)

20a. *Stresses the direct connection between the state of the human environment and human health; calls on the Commission, with the aim of implementing the 'health in all policies' approach which has been proclaimed in the European Union, to draft studies indicating the causal relationship between change in people's state of health and change in the quality of the environment; calls on the Commission to treat the protection of human health as an issue of the first importance among environmental protection priorities;*

Or. hu

Amendment by Jens Holm

Amendment 54
Paragraph 20 a (new)

20a. *Is concerned that the development of ambitious environment measures within the European Union is being hampered by the Commission's priority commitment to competitiveness and economic growth;*

Or. en

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 55
Paragraph 21

deleted

Or. pl

Amendment by Antonio De Blasio

Amendment 56
Paragraph 21

21. Considers that the European Union should play a leading role in the development of policy options that would pave the way for radical behavioural changes in consumption and production patterns; ***stresses the importance of the development of aware consumer behaviour, which - going beyond State legal frameworks - may have a positive influence on the extent and intensity of the environmental commitments of market actors;***

Or. hu

Amendment by Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines

Amendment 57
Paragraph 22 a (new)

- 22a. ***Takes the view that Europe's farm sector can help to improve carbon capture by using farming methods that increase the amount of land covered by vegetation; considers, furthermore, that the European Union should encourage Community producers to adopt 'conservation farming' methods, which have a well-known impact on erosion and surface run-off, boost the formation of organic matter, reduce soil compaction through less farm machinery traffic and reduce the contamination of water by harmful substances;***

Or. es

Amendment by Urszula Krupa

Amendment 58
Paragraph 23

23. ***Stresses*** that the Commission (***deletion***) should make an overall assessment of the results of the 6th EAP before finalising the proposal for the 7th EAP;

Or. pl