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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2010/2010(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on developing the job potential of a new sustainable economy
(2010/2010(INI))

Rapporteur: Rovana Plumb

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Considers the post-crisis economy to be a strong opportunity for sustainable growth based on social justice and eco-efficiency; notes that the transformation of European economies from polluting to eco-efficient economies will lead to profound changes in production, distribution and consumption, which should be used as a chance to move towards true sustainability without endangering prosperity or jobs;
2. Underlines the need to tackle climate change urgently; welcomes the EU's goal of reducing CO₂ emissions by 20% by 2020; looks forward to receiving recommendations on how the EU could move towards a goal of 30%, and consequently urges the Commission to develop specific policies to ensure the transition towards a green economy, especially as regards worker re-skilling for green jobs and temporary compensation for greening European industry in the context of global markets;
3. Takes the view that existing EU environmental legislation has significant potential to create new jobs in areas such as air, soil, energy, public services, agriculture, transport and environmental management; calls on the Member States to implement EU legislation which could lead to new investment in eco-friendly technologies and jobs;
4. Invites the Commission to prioritise green jobs in the development of policies on renewable energies, energy efficiency, waste management and recycling, and building refurbishment;
5. Calls on the Commission to propose, by 2011, a strategy including legislative and non-legislative measures to encourage green jobs that are a source of growth and prosperity for all; calls on the Commission and the Member States to integrate policies aimed at re-skilling and retraining workers for green jobs with all other EU policies;
6. Calls on the Commission to incorporate a ninth key competence relating to the environment, climate change and sustainable development – which is essential in a knowledge society – into the framework for lifelong learning;
7. Believes that, when it comes to citizens' welfare, the environment and social policy go hand in hand at local, regional, national and European level; points out that those organisations that invest in eco-efficient practices will help create a better working environment for staff and employees, and may consequently be more productive; calls on the Member States to encourage companies, SMEs and public-sector organisations to become EMAS-compliant;
8. Urges the Member States to exchange experience and best practice in the field of employment opportunities when dealing with the economic, social and environmental impact of climate change;

9. Takes the view that significantly more research is needed to measure the impact of environmental and climate change policies on employment; calls on the Commission to make this area a priority under the 8th Framework Programme;
10. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to launch information and public awareness campaigns on developing green jobs in a sustainable economy.