



2018/0209(COD)

17.9.2018

*****I**

DRAFT REPORT

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 (COM(2018)0385 - C8-0249/2018 – 2018/0209(COD))

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Rapporteur: Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

Amendments to a draft act

Amendments by Parliament set out in two columns

Deletions are indicated in ***bold italics*** in the left-hand column. Replacements are indicated in ***bold italics*** in both columns. New text is indicated in ***bold italics*** in the right-hand column.

The first and second lines of the header of each amendment identify the relevant part of the draft act under consideration. If an amendment pertains to an existing act that the draft act is seeking to amend, the amendment heading includes a third line identifying the existing act and a fourth line identifying the provision in that act that Parliament wishes to amend.

Amendments by Parliament in the form of a consolidated text

New text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated using either the ▯ symbol or ~~strikeout~~. Replacements are indicated by highlighting the new text in ***bold italics*** and by deleting or striking out the text that has been replaced.

By way of exception, purely technical changes made by the drafting departments in preparing the final text are not highlighted.

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 (COM(2018)0385 - C8-0249/2018 – 2018/0209(COD))

(Ordinary legislative procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(2018)0385),
 - having regard to Article 294(2) and Article 192 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C8-0249/2018),
 - having regard to Article 294(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
 - having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of [...]
 - having regard to Rule 59 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the opinions of the Committee on Budget, the Committee on Regional Development and the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (A8-0000/2018),
1. Adopts its position at first reading hereinafter set out;
 2. Calls on the Commission to refer the matter to Parliament again if it replaces, substantially amends or intends to substantially amend its proposal;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) Pursuing the achievement of the Union's objectives and targets set by environmental, climate and related clean energy legislation, policy, plans and international commitments, the Programme should contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, **low-**

Amendment

(3) Pursuing the achievement of the Union's objectives and targets set by environmental, climate and related clean energy legislation, policy, plans and international commitments, the Programme should contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, **low-**

carbon and climate-resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, either through direct interventions or by supporting the integration of those objectives in other policies.

emission and climate-resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, **including through the support of the Natura 2000 network and tackling the degradation of ecosystems**, either through direct interventions or by supporting the integration of those objectives in other policies.

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) For achieving the overarching objectives, the implementation of the Circular economy package¹¹, the 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework^{12,13,14}, Union nature legislation¹⁵, as well as of related policies^{16,17,18,19,20}, is of particular importance.

¹¹ COM(2015) 614 final, 02.12.2015.

¹² 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework, COM(2014)15, 22.01.2014.

¹³ EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change, COM(2013)216, 16.04.2013.

¹⁴ Clean Energy for all Europeans package, COM(2016) 860, 30.11.2016.

¹⁵ Action Plan for nature, people and the economy, COM(2017)198, 27.04.2017.

¹⁶ Clean Air Programme for Europe, COM(2013)918.

Amendment

(6) For achieving the overarching objectives, the implementation of the Circular economy package¹¹, the 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework^{12,13,14}, Union nature legislation¹⁵, as well as of related policies^{16,17,18,19,20}, is of particular importance, **as is the implementation of the general action programmes on environment and climate policy adopted in accordance with Article 192(3) TFEU, such as the 7th Environment Action Programme^{20a}.**

¹¹ COM(2015) 614 final, 02.12.2015.

¹² 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework, COM(2014)15, 22.01.2014.

¹³ EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change, COM(2013)216, 16.04.2013.

¹⁴ Clean Energy for all Europeans package, COM(2016) 860, 30.11.2016.

¹⁵ Action Plan for nature, people and the economy, COM(2017)198, 27.04.2017.

¹⁶ Clean Air Programme for Europe, COM(2013)918.

¹⁷ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1).

¹⁸ Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, COM(2006)231.

¹⁹ Low Emission Mobility Strategy, COM/2016/0501 final.

²⁰ Action Plan on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure under Article 10(6) of Directive 2014/94/EU, 8.11.2017.

¹⁷ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1).

¹⁸ Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, COM(2006)231.

¹⁹ Low Emission Mobility Strategy, COM/2016/0501 final.

²⁰ Action Plan on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure under Article 10(6) of Directive 2014/94/EU, 8.11.2017.

^{20a} ***Decision No 1386/2013/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 'Living well, within the limits of our planet' (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 171).***

Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) Complying with the Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change requires the transformation of the Union into **an** energy efficient, **low carbon** and climate resilient society. This in turn requires actions, with a special focus on sectors that contribute most to the current levels of **CO₂** output and pollution, contributing to the implementation of the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and the Member States' Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans and **preparations for** the Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy. The Programme should also include measures contributing to the implementation of the Union's

Amendment

(7) Complying with the Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change requires the transformation of the Union into **a sustainable, circular**, energy efficient, **low-emission** and climate resilient society. This in turn requires actions, with a special focus on sectors that contribute most to the current levels of **greenhouse gas** output and pollution, contributing to the implementation of the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and the Member States' Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans and **implementation of** the Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy, **in line with the decarbonisation objective of the Paris**

climate adaptation policy to decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

Agreement. The Programme should also include measures contributing to the implementation of the Union's climate adaptation policy to decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) The transition to clean energy is an essential contribution to the mitigation of climate change with co-benefits for the environment. Actions for capacity building supporting the clean energy transition, funded until 2020 under Horizon 2020, should be integrated in the Programme since their objective is not to fund excellence and generate innovation, but to facilitate the uptake of already available technology that will contribute to climate mitigation. The inclusion of these capacity building activities into the Programme offers potential for synergies between the sub-programmes and increases the overall coherence of Union funding. Therefore, data should be collected and disseminated on the uptake of existing research and innovation solutions in the LIFE projects, including from the Horizon Europe programme and its predecessors.

Amendment

(8) The transition to clean, **low-emission** energy is an essential contribution to the mitigation of climate change with co-benefits for the environment. Actions for capacity building supporting the clean energy transition, funded until 2020 under Horizon 2020, should be integrated in the Programme since their objective is not to fund excellence and generate innovation, but to facilitate the uptake of already available technology **for renewable energy and energy efficiency**, that will contribute to climate mitigation. The inclusion of these capacity building activities into the Programme offers potential for synergies between the sub-programmes and increases the overall coherence of Union funding. Therefore, data should be collected and disseminated on the uptake of existing research and innovation solutions in the LIFE projects, including from the Horizon Europe programme and its predecessors.

Or. en

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The impact assessments of the Clean Energy legislation estimate that the delivery of the Union's 2030 energy targets will require additional investments of EUR 177 billion annually in the period 2021-2030. The biggest gaps relate to the investments in buildings decarbonisation (energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources), where capital needs to be channelled towards projects of highly distributed nature. One of the objectives of the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme is to build capacity for **projects** development and aggregation, thereby also helping to absorb funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds and catalyse investments in **clean** energy also using the financial instruments provided under InvestEU.

Amendment

(9) The impact assessments of the Clean Energy legislation estimate that the delivery of the Union's 2030 energy targets will require additional investments of EUR 177 billion annually in the period 2021-2030. The biggest gaps relate to the investments in buildings decarbonisation (energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources), where capital needs to be channelled towards projects of highly distributed nature. One of the objectives of the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme is to build capacity for **project** development and aggregation, thereby also helping to absorb funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds and catalyse investments in **renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements**, also using the financial instruments provided under InvestEU.

Or. en

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) An action that has received a contribution from the Programme can also receive a contribution from any other Union programme, provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs. Actions that receive cumulative funding from different Union programmes **shall** be audited only once, covering all involved programmes and their respective applicable rules.

Amendment

(11) An action that has received a contribution from the Programme can also receive a contribution from any other Union programme, provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs. Actions that receive cumulative funding from different Union programmes **should** be audited only once, covering all involved programmes and their respective applicable rules.

Or. en

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) The Union's most recent Environmental Implementation Review package²¹ indicates that significant progress is required to accelerate implementation of the Union environment acquis and enhance the integration of environmental and climate objectives into other policies. The Programme should therefore act as a catalyst to achieve the required progress through developing, testing and replicating new approaches; supporting policy development, monitoring and review; enhancing stakeholder involvement; mobilising investments across Union investment programmes or other financial sources and supporting actions to overcome the various obstacles to the effective implementation of key plans required by environment legislation.

²¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - The EU Environmental Implementation Review: Common challenges and how to combine efforts to deliver better results (COM/2017/063 final).

Amendment

(12) The Union's most recent Environmental Implementation Review package²¹ indicates that significant progress is required to accelerate implementation of the Union environment acquis and enhance the integration of environmental and climate objectives into other policies. The Programme should therefore act as a catalyst to achieve the required progress through developing, testing and replicating new approaches; supporting policy development, monitoring and review; ***improving governance on environmental, climate change and related clean energy transition matters, including through*** enhancing stakeholder involvement; mobilising investments across Union investment programmes or other financial sources and supporting actions to overcome the various obstacles to the effective implementation of key plans required by environment legislation.

²¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - The EU Environmental Implementation Review: Common challenges and how to combine efforts to deliver better results (COM/2017/063 final).

Or. en

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13

(13) Halting and reversing biodiversity loss, including in marine ecosystems, requires support for the development, implementation, enforcement and assessment of relevant Union legislation and policy, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020²², Council Directive 92/43/EEC²³ and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁴ and Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁵, in particular by developing the knowledge base for policy development and implementation and by developing, testing, demonstrating and applying best practices and solutions on small scale or tailored to specific local, regional or national contexts, including integrated approaches for the implementation of the prioritised action frameworks prepared on the basis of Directive 92/43/EEC. The Union should track *its* biodiversity-related expenditure to fulfil *its* reporting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Requirements for tracking in other relevant Union legislation should also be met.

(13) Halting and reversing biodiversity loss **and the degradation of ecosystems**, including in marine ecosystems, requires support for the development, implementation, enforcement and assessment of relevant Union legislation and policy, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020²², Council Directive 92/43/EEC²³ and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁴ and Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁵, in particular by developing the knowledge base for policy development and implementation and by developing, testing, demonstrating and applying best practices and solutions on small scale or tailored to specific local, regional or national contexts, including integrated approaches for the implementation of the prioritised action frameworks prepared on the basis of Directive 92/43/EEC. The Union **and the Member States** should track **their** biodiversity-related expenditure to fulfil **their** reporting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Requirements for tracking in other relevant Union legislation should also be met.

²² COM(2011) 244 final.

²³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7).

²⁴ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7).

²⁵ Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (OJ L 317,

²² COM(2011) 244 final.

²³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7).

²⁴ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7).

²⁵ Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (OJ L 317,

Amendment 9**Proposal for a regulation****Recital 14***Text proposed by the Commission*

(14) Recent evaluations and assessments, including the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the Fitness Check of Nature legislation, indicate that one of the main underlying causes for insufficient implementation of Union nature legislation and of the biodiversity strategy is the lack of adequate financing. The main Union funding instruments, including the [European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund], can make a significant contribution towards meeting those needs. The Programme can further improve the efficiency of such mainstreaming through strategic nature projects dedicated to catalysing the implementation of Union nature and biodiversity legislation and policy, including the actions set out in the Priority Action Frameworks developed in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC. The strategic nature projects should support programmes of actions in **Member States for** the mainstreaming of relevant nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes, thus ensuring that appropriate funds are mobilised for implementing these policies. Member States could decide within their Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy to use a certain share of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development allocation to leverage

Amendment

(14) Recent evaluations and assessments, including the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the Fitness Check of Nature legislation, indicate that one of the main underlying causes for insufficient implementation of Union nature legislation and of the biodiversity strategy is the lack of adequate financing. The main Union funding instruments, including the [European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund], can make a significant contribution towards meeting those needs. The Programme can further improve the efficiency of such mainstreaming through strategic nature projects dedicated to catalysing the implementation of Union nature and biodiversity legislation and policy, including the actions set out in the Priority Action Frameworks developed in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC. The strategic nature projects should support programmes of actions **to assist** in the mainstreaming of relevant nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes, thus ensuring that appropriate funds are mobilised for implementing these policies. Member States could decide within their Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy to use a certain share of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development allocation to leverage support for actions

support for actions that complement the Strategic Nature Projects as defined under this Regulation.

that complement the Strategic Nature Projects as defined under this Regulation.

Or. en

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) Promoting the circular economy requires a mentality shift in the way of designing, producing, consuming and disposing of materials and products, including plastics. The Programme should contribute to the transition to a circular economy model through financial support targeting a variety of actors (businesses, public authorities and consumers), in particular by applying, developing, and replicating best technology, practices and solutions tailored to specific local, regional or national contexts, including through integrated approaches for the implementation of waste management and prevention plans. Through supporting the implementation of the plastics strategy, action can be taken to address the problem of marine litter in particular.

Amendment

(16) Promoting the circular economy **and resource efficiency** requires a mentality shift in the way of designing, producing, consuming and disposing of materials and products, including plastics. The Programme should contribute to the transition to a circular economy model through financial support targeting a variety of actors (businesses, public authorities and consumers), in particular by applying, developing, and replicating best technology, practices and solutions tailored to specific local, regional or national contexts, including through integrated approaches for the **application of the waste hierarchy and the** implementation of waste management and prevention plans. Through supporting the implementation of the plastics strategy, action can be taken to address the problem of marine litter in particular.

Or. en

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) The Union's long-term objective for

Amendment

(17) The Union's long-term objective for

air policy is to achieve levels of air quality that do not cause significant negative impacts on and risks to human health. Public awareness about air pollution is high and citizens expect authorities to act. Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁶ stresses the role Union funding can play in achieving clean air objectives. Therefore, the Programme should support projects, including strategic integrated projects, which have the potential to leverage public and private funds, to be showcases of good practice and catalysts for the implementation of air quality plans and legislation at local, regional, multi-regional, national and trans-national level.

²⁶ Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC (OJ L 344, 17.12.2016, p. 1).

air policy is to achieve levels of air quality that do not cause significant negative impacts on and risks to human health **and the environment**. Public awareness about air pollution is high and citizens expect authorities to act. Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁶ stresses the role Union funding can play in achieving clean air objectives. Therefore, the Programme should support projects, including strategic integrated projects, which have the potential to leverage public and private funds, to be showcases of good practice and catalysts for the implementation of air quality plans and legislation at local, regional, multi-regional, national and trans-national level.

²⁶ Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC (OJ L 344, 17.12.2016, p. 1).

Or. en

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) The improvement of governance on environmental, climate change and related clean energy transition matters requires involvement of civil society by raising public awareness, consumer engagement, and broadening of stakeholder involvement, including non-governmental organisations, in consultation on and implementation of related policies.

Amendment

(20) The improvement of governance on environmental, climate change and related clean energy transition matters requires involvement of civil society by raising public awareness, consumer engagement, and broadening of **public and** stakeholder involvement, including non-governmental organisations, in consultation on and implementation of related policies. **It is therefore appropriate that the Programme**

support a broad range of NGOs as well as networks of non-profit-making entities that pursue an aim which is of general Union interest, and that are primarily active in the field of environment or climate action, by awarding, in a competitive and transparent manner, operating grants, in order to help such NGOs and networks to make effective contributions to Union policy, and to build up and strengthen their capacity to become more efficient partners.

Or. en

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) Whilst improving governance at all levels should be a cross-cutting objective for all sub-programmes of the Programme, the Programme should support the development *and* implementation *of* the horizontal legislation on *the* environmental governance, including the legislation implementing the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters²⁹.

²⁹ OJ L 124, 17.5.2005, p. 4.

Amendment

(21) Whilst improving governance at all levels should be a cross-cutting objective for all sub-programmes of the Programme, the Programme should support the development, implementation *and effective compliance with and enforcement of the environment and climate acquis, in particular of* the horizontal legislation on environmental governance, including the legislation implementing the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters²⁹.

²⁹ OJ L 124, 17.5.2005, p. 4.

Or. en

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 22

Text proposed by the Commission

(22) The Programme should prepare and support market players for the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, **low-carbon** and climate-resilient economy by testing new business opportunities, upgrading professional skills, facilitating consumers' access to sustainable products and services, engaging and empowering influencers and testing novel methods to adapt the existing processes and business landscape. To support a broader market uptake of sustainable solutions, general public acceptance and consumer engagement should be promoted.

Amendment

(22) The Programme should prepare and support market players for the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, **low-emission** and climate-resilient economy by testing new business opportunities, upgrading professional skills, facilitating consumers' access to sustainable products and services, engaging and empowering influencers and testing novel methods to adapt the existing processes and business landscape. To support a broader market uptake of sustainable solutions, general public acceptance and consumer engagement should be promoted.

Or. en

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 23 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23a) The success of strategic nature projects and strategic integrated projects depends on close cooperation between national, regional and local authorities and the non-state actors concerned by the Programme's objectives. The principles of transparency and disclosure of decisions concerning the development, implementation, assessment and monitoring of projects should, therefore, be applied, in particular in the case of mainstreaming or when multiple funding sources are involved.

Or. en

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate actions and to the achievement of an overall target of **25 %** of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives. Actions under this Programme are expected to contribute **61%** of the overall financial envelope of the Programme to climate objectives. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

Amendment

(24) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this Programme will contribute to mainstream climate actions and to the achievement of an overall target of **30%** of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives. Actions under this Programme are expected to contribute **(61%)** of the overall financial envelope of the Programme to climate objectives. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

Or. en

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 28 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(28a) The minimum and maximum co-financing rates should be set at such levels that are necessary to maintain the effective level of support provided by the Programme, while taking into account the necessary flexibility and adaptability that is needed to respond to the existing range of actions and entities.

Or. en

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Recital 36 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(36a) In order to ensure that support from and implementation of the Programme is consistent with the policies and priorities of the Union and complementary to other financial instruments of the Union, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in order to supplement this Regulation by adopting multiannual work programmes. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts..

Or. en

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) 'strategic nature projects' means projects that support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action *in the Member States* to mainstream these objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the priority action frameworks established pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC;

Amendment

(1) 'strategic nature projects' means projects that support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action, *in particular* to mainstream these objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the priority action frameworks established pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC;

Or. en

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The general objective of the Programme is to contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, *low-carbon* and climate-resilient economy, *including through the transition to clean energy, to the protection and improvement of* the quality of the environment and to *halting and reversing* biodiversity loss, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Amendment

1. The general objective of the Programme is to contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, *low-emission* and climate-resilient economy, *to protect and improve* the quality of the environment and to *halt and reverse* biodiversity loss *and the degradation of ecosystems*, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Or. en

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) to develop, demonstrate and

Amendment

(a) to develop, demonstrate and

promote innovative techniques and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action, including the transition to clean energy, and to contribute to the application of best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity;

promote innovative techniques and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action, including the transition to clean, **renewable energy and improving energy efficiency**, and to contribute to the application of best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity;

Or. en

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy, **including** by improving governance **through** enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;

Amendment

(b) to support the development, implementation, monitoring, **effective compliance** and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy, **in particular** by improving **environmental and climate** governance **at all levels, including by** enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;

Or. en

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) to support the implementation of general Union environment action Programmes that have been adopted pursuant to Article 192(3) TFEU.

Or. en

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR **5 450 000 000** in current prices.

Amendment

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR **7 272 000 000** in current prices.

Or. en

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) EUR **3 500 000 000** for the field Environment, of which

Amendment

(a) EUR **5 322 000 000** for the field Environment, of which

Or. en

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) EUR **2 150 000 000** for the sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity and

Amendment

(1) EUR **3 261 420 000** for the sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity and

Or. en

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point a – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) EUR **1 350 000 000** for the sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life;

Amendment

(2) EUR **2 060 580 000** for the sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life;

Or. en

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 6a

International cooperation

In the course of implementing the Programme, cooperation with relevant international organisations, and with their institutions and bodies, shall be possible where needed for the purpose of achieving the general objectives set out in Article 3.

Or. en

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Programme ***shall be implemented in a way which ensures its consistency*** with the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, Horizon Europe, the Connecting Europe Facility and InvestEU, in order to create synergies, particularly as regards strategic nature projects and

Amendment

The Commission shall ensure the consistent implementation of the Programme and ensure coherence and coordination with the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, Horizon Europe, the Connecting Europe Facility and InvestEU, in order to

strategic integrated projects, and to support the uptake and replication of solutions developed under the Programme.

create synergies, particularly as regards strategic nature projects and strategic integrated projects, and to support the uptake and replication of solutions developed under the Programme.

Or. en

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2 – point a – point 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) other third countries listed in the *work programme* under the conditions specified in paragraphs 4 to 6;

Amendment

(3) other third countries listed in the *multiannual work programmes*, under the conditions specified in paragraphs 4 to 6;

Or. en

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Award criteria shall be set out in the calls for proposals taking into account the following:

Amendment

Award criteria shall be set out in *the multiannual work programmes and* the calls for proposals taking into account the following:

Or. en

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) projects financed by the

Amendment

(a) projects financed by the

Programme shall ***avoid undermining*** environmental, climate or relevant clean energy objectives ***of the Programme and, where possible,*** shall promote the use of green public procurement;

Programme shall ***contribute to achieving the*** environmental, climate or relevant clean energy objectives ***set out in Article 3, shall not undermine any of such objectives and*** shall promote the use of green public procurement;

Or. en

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) projects shall ensure a cost-effective approach and be technically and financially coherent;

Or. en

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point a b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ab) projects with the highest potential policy impact for reaching the objectives set out in Article 3 shall be given priority;

Or. en

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) projects with the highest potential

(c) projects with the highest potential

of being replicated and taken-up by the public or private sector or of mobilising the largest investments or financial resources (catalytic potential) shall **be given priority**;

of being replicated and taken-up by the public or private sector or of mobilising the largest investments or financial resources (catalytic potential) shall **benefit from a bonus in their evaluation**;

Or. en

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. An action that has received a contribution from another Union programme may also receive a contribution under the Programme, provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs. The rules of each contributing Union programme shall apply to its respective contribution to the action. The cumulative funding shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action and the support from the different Union programmes may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support.

Amendment

1. An action that has received a contribution from another Union programme may also receive a contribution under the Programme, provided that the contributions do not cover the same costs. ***In order to be eligible for contributions under the Programme, actions that have been financed by other Union programmes shall have avoided undermining the environmental or climate objectives set out in Article 3.*** The rules of each contributing Union programme shall apply to its respective contribution to the action. The cumulative funding shall not exceed the total eligible costs of the action and the support from the different Union programmes may be calculated on a pro-rata basis in accordance with the documents setting out the conditions for support.

Or. en

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation Article 17 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Work programme

Multiannual work programme

Or. en

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation Article 17 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The Programme shall be implemented by at least two multiannual work programmes referred to in Article 110 of the Financial Regulation. ***Work programmes shall set out, where applicable, the overall amount reserved for blending operations.***

1. The Programme shall be implemented by at least two multiannual work programmes referred to in Article 110 of the Financial Regulation. ***The Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 21 in order to supplement this Regulation by adopting those multiannual work programmes.***

Or. en

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation Article 17 – paragraph 2 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) the minimum and the maximum levels for co-financing rates, differentiated amongst the sub-programmes set out in Article 4;

Or. en

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 2 – point a b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ab) the maximum amount reserved for blending operations;

Or. en

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 2 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) indicative timetables for the calls for proposals for the period covered by the multiannual work programme;

Or. en

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 2 – point d b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(db) the technical methodology for the project selection procedure and award criteria elements as set out in Article 13.

Or. en

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation

Article 17 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The duration of the first multiannual work programme shall be four years and the duration of the second multiannual work programme shall be three years.

Or. en

Amendment 44

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 17 – paragraph 2 b (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. The Commission shall ensure that unused funds in a given call for proposals are reallocated between the different types of actions referred to in Article 10(2).

Or. en

Amendment 45

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 17 – paragraph 2 c (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2c. The Commission shall ensure stakeholder consultation in the development of the multiannual work programmes.

Or. en

Amendment 46

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 19 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The *interim* evaluation of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than *four* years after the start of the Programme implementation.

Amendment

2. The *mid-term* evaluation of the Programme shall be performed once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than *three* years after the start of the Programme implementation.

That evaluation shall cover the following:

Or. en

Amendment 47

Proposal for a regulation

Article 19 – paragraph 2 – point a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) qualitative and quantitative aspects of its implementation,

Or. en

Amendment 48

Proposal for a regulation

Article 19 – paragraph 2 – point b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) efficiency of the use of resources,

Or. en

Amendment 49

Proposal for a regulation

Article 19 – paragraph 2 – point c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) achievement of the objectives of all the measures, where possible, at the level of results and impacts,

Or. en

Amendment 50

Proposal for a regulation

Article 19 – paragraph 2 – point d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) the actual or expected success of projects in leveraging other Union funds, taking into account, in particular, the benefits of increased coherence with other Union financial instruments,

Or. en

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation

Article 19 – paragraph 2 – point e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) the extent to which synergies between the objectives have been reached and its complementarity with other relevant Union programmes,

Or. en

Amendment 52

Proposal for a regulation

Article 19 – paragraph 2 – point f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(f) the Union added value and long-term impact of the Programme, with a view to taking a decision on the renewal, modification or suspension of the measures,

Or. en

Amendment 53

Proposal for a regulation

Article 19 – paragraph 2 – point g (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(g) the extent to which stakeholders have been involved,

Or. en

Amendment 54

Proposal for a regulation

Article 19 – paragraph 2 – point h (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(h) a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the contribution of the Programme to the conservation status of habitats and species listed under Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC,

Or. en

Amendment 55

Proposal for a regulation

Article 19 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. At the end of the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after the end of the period specified in the second paragraph of Article 1, a final evaluation of the Programme shall be carried out by the Commission.

Amendment

3. At the end of the implementation of the Programme, but no later than four years after the end of the period specified in the second paragraph of Article 1, a final evaluation of the Programme shall be carried out by the Commission ***and be complemented by an external and independent ex-post evaluation report covering the implementation and results of the Programme.***

Or. en

Amendment 56

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 19 – paragraph 4**

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Commission shall ***communicate*** the conclusions of the evaluations accompanied by its observations, to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

Amendment

4. The Commission shall ***submit*** the conclusions of the evaluations accompanied by its observations, to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

Or. en

Amendment 57

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 20 – paragraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding (in particular when promoting the projects and their results), by providing coherent,

Amendment

1. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding (in particular when promoting the projects and their results), by providing coherent,

effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media and the public.

effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media and the public. ***For that purpose, the recipients shall use the Programme logo, as depicted in Annex IIa, for all communication activities and that logo shall appear on notice boards at strategic places visible to the public. All durable goods acquired in the framework of the Programme shall bear the Programme logo except in cases specified by the Commission.***

Or. en

Amendment 58

Proposal for a regulation Article 23 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Reflows from financial instruments established under Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 may be ***invested in the financial instruments established*** under ***[InvestEU Fund]***.

Amendment

4. Reflows from financial instruments established under Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 may be ***reallocated between the actions*** under ***this Programme***.

Or. en

Amendment 59

Proposal for a regulation Annex II –point 2.1 – indent 2 – sub-indent 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

- ***Resource efficiency***

Or. en

Amendment 60

Proposal for a regulation
Annex II a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment



Or. en

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The protection of the environment is not an obstacle to economic growth and employment. On the contrary, halting and reversing biodiversity loss, decarbonisation and the transition to a circular economy are vital for long-term socio-economic prosperity and global competitiveness. As repeated by the institutions, the EU should be the global frontrunner for sustainable economic growth and employment. Despite this, much more has to be done.

Proper implementation of EU environmental and climate legislation and policy, combined with the requisite funding, is necessary to meet the overarching environment and climate objectives and international commitments of the EU and the Member States. A key demand for the European Parliament has been to assure a sufficient level of funding for the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 and a greater concentration of budgetary resources in areas that demonstrate a clear European added value and stimulate sustainable economic growth. The EU budget is limited in its means however, and the Member States must also ensure sufficient national resources to meet the targets set by the EU.

As the only programme dedicated specifically to environment and climate action, LIFE remains a crucial, effective and efficient financial instrument for help contribute to achieving the EU's objectives. A doubling of the financial envelope for the LIFE programme is therefore required and justified, as has been reiterated by the European Parliament. Considering that there are multiple other financing means for climate mitigation and adaptation, it is appropriate that the additional funds proportionally supplement the Environment portfolio within the envelope.

Given the size of the proposed financial envelope of the LIFE programme, one cannot expect that it will be sufficient to reach the overarching environment and climate ambitions of the EU. To compensate for the modest budget, LIFE is expected to facilitate mainstreaming, in particular in the larger funding programmes of the EU. While an improved mainstreaming approach will undoubtedly bring benefits, it is imperative that there is sufficient transparency, monitoring and assessment for the programmes for which LIFE is intended to be a mainstreaming catalyst. Strict compliance and greater coherence across the synergetic budget programmes and EU policy areas will be needed to ensure that expenditures effectively achieve the set objectives of LIFE.

Merit and quality

Performance based budgeting, and an emphasis on quality and merit should be the lynchpins for any public financing. National allocations have been deemed ineffective and the phase-out of such allocations in the current LIFE programme is a welcome development, which corresponds to the demands of the Parliament. It is important to note that a focus on merit will ensure that EU funds are targeted towards overarching EU objectives instead of varying national priorities. A renationalisation of the LIFE priorities and funding would not reduce the burden on taxpayers and consumers, nor achieve better results, but would instead hamper efficiency and effectiveness of the Programme.

Centralisation of management and targeted guidance will help create a level playing field and raise the standard and overall added value of proposals and projects. The Commission has made positive steps, with the development of the National Contact Points and network. It is important

to note that that this should not lead to a lowering of standards for the criteria for awards. A horizontal application of clearly defined criteria is needed to reach the objectives of LIFE.

Balancing flexibility and accountability

The Commission has made substantial steps in condensing the legal text and the streamlining of decision-making process. While this is commendable, it must not result in legal uncertainty or insecurity for current and funding actions. Strategic flexibility and adaptability will allow LIFE to meet the most pressing priorities. The added emphasis on those elements in the Multiannual Work Programmes is a positive step; nevertheless, clarity and stability are central to the efficient and effective function of any budget programme. A carte blanche for efficiency reasons must not be to the detriment of reaching LIFE's objectives and overarching goals of the EU. It is therefore appropriate for the MAWPs to be implemented through delegated acts, ensuring inter-institutional and stakeholder involvement and democratic accountability.

The impact assessment states that the legal base does not prejudge the specific rates of financing, considering changing demands and requirements. By setting the minimum and maximum co-financing rates, which vary for the sub-programmes and actions, potential applicants and projects are afforded stability, while allowing for flexibility and adaptability to consider individual requirements and situations.

Environment

LIFE is an important driver and catalyst for nature conservation in the EU, in particular for the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives and through the management of Natura 2000. Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are also essential for growth, jobs and the economy. An estimated 4.4 million jobs depend directly on healthy ecosystems in Europe and the Natura 2000 network contributes between 1.7 and 2.5% to EU GDP through the provision of ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, water purification, pollination and tourism. Despite this, the 2020 EU biodiversity targets and Aichi Biodiversity Targets will not be met with the current trajectory of biodiversity loss. In order to step up its efforts, the EU must commit to immediate, substantial and additional efforts on nature conservation.

The impact assessment states that the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems would be best served through a targeted approach, based on funding small projects, in comparison to a larger, more general fund for biodiversity. An increased envelope would increase the reach and impact of such targeted projects, while contributing to mainstream and catalytic effects. On that scale, it is important to ensure transparency, accountability and effectiveness. The European Parliament has stressed that the EU, and in particular Member States, must ensure clear, quantitative, measurable targets with performance indicators, tracking instruments, commitment processes and review and reporting mechanisms.

Climate and clean energy transition

The Union's 2030 climate and energy targets, its mid-century and long-term decarbonisation strategy and its commitments under the Paris Agreement must be matched with the appropriate policies and financial resources. In the current MFF, the EU has failed to meet its climate-related spending target every year. In addition to climate benefits, a clean energy transition will create jobs, stimulate growth and improve energy security. The European Parliament has

underlined that an increase of climate-related spending to a minimum of 30% in the MFF for 2021-2027 is therefore essential.

The decarbonisation objective of the Paris Agreement requires a rapid shift to a clean, low-emission energy strategy. A considerable share of the proposed increase to LIFE has been directed to the new Clean Energy Transition sub-programme. This can be seen as a natural development, due to the particular functioning of LIFE; it is, albeit, important to underline that LIFE spending should only be used for catalysing the development and uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.