European Parliament resolution on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies

The European Parliament,

1. Notes with concern the Commission’s proposals for an EU climate and energy policy up to 2030, as adopted on 22 January 2014; underlines the fact that the 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target included in the proposals displays a scale-back in ambition, as it entails only a 50/50 chance of not exceeding 2°C of global warming and leaving a legacy of devastating climate change; notes also the major step back from the 2020 energy policy, as there is no energy efficiency target for 2030 and merely an aspirational goal, with no provisions binding on the Member States with regard to renewable energy sources, which will undermine investors’ certainty in an area in which Europe is a global leader;

2. Notes the huge citizens’ mobilisation for climate and environmental protection, as illustrated by the fact that over 225 000 letters have been sent to President Barroso; questions, in this connection, President Barroso’s commitment to both citizens and the environment; calls on the Member States to nominate new Commissioners who will listen to public opinion and the overwhelming consensus in the scientific community in favour of better protection of our climate and our environment;

3. Calls on the European Council to adopt a multifaceted approach that is based on mutually reinforcing, coordinated and coherent policies and ambitious binding targets on GHG emission reduction, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency; asks the Commission and the Member States to take greater advantage of the interactions between these three targets, since they are the most appropriate tools to ensure that the EU climate and energy objectives are achieved in a cost-effective manner in the time horizon to 2030, to provide investment certainty and to boost and strengthen competitiveness and energy security in the EU;

4. Calls on the European Council to set a binding 2030 EU energy saving target of 40 % relative to the energy consumed in the EU in 2010; stresses that this target should be achieved by means of individual binding national targets, taking into account each Member State’s individual situation and potential;
5. Calls on the European Council to set a binding 2030 EU target to produce at least 45% of the total final energy consumed from renewable energy sources; stresses that such a target should be achieved by means of individual binding national targets, taking into account each Member State’s individual situation and potential;

6. Calls on the European Council to set a binding 2030 EU target to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 60% in real emissions compared to 1990 levels, in line with the already agreed 2°C objective; stresses that this target should be achieved by means of individual binding national targets, taking into account each Member State’s individual situation and potential;

7. Points out that the significant surplus of allowances within the EU ETS has led to a much lower carbon price than originally expected and does not provide the price signal necessary to induce GHG-emissions savings and investments in sustainable technologies; underlines the fact that this may lead to economic inefficiencies such as the locking-in of carbon-intensive capital stocks and the increased use of coal in the EU; calls for an immediate structural reform to remove the current oversupply of ETS allowances from the system without delay and to include a proposal to modify the 1.74 % annual linear reduction requirement so as to meet the requirements of the 2050 CO2 reduction objective and the 2030 target; notes also the negative effects of the inflow of international offsets and welcomes the fact that the use of offsets will not be eligible beyond 2020;

8. Notes that all relevant EU directives will need to be revised in order to incorporate the 2030 framework into legislation; calls on the Commission to put forward, no later than early 2015, legislative proposals to revise, on the basis of codecision, the ETS Directive, the Renewable Energy Directive and the Effort Sharing Decision;

9. On the basis of the precautionary principle and taking into account the risks and the negative climate, environmental and health impacts involved in unconventional hydrocarbon exploration and extraction (e.g. of shale gas), and the gaps identified in the EU regulatory regime for such activities which the Commission has yielded to pressure not to regulate, urges local and regional authorities not to authorise any unconventional hydrocarbon exploration or extraction operations in the EU, and urges the Member States to refrain from preventing such decisions;

10. Notes the importance of complete carbon accounting under the Fuel Quality Directive in order to reduce the life-cycle GHG emissions of transport fuels; stresses that the Fuel Quality Directive can play an important role in promoting more sustainable fuels in a 2030 climate and energy framework;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Council and the Commission.

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