



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

2010/0073(COD)

8.9.2010

DRAFT OPINION

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
on European environmental economic accounts
(COM(2010)0132 – C7-0092/10 – 2010/0073(COD))

Rapporteur: Hans-Peter Martin

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation Recital -1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(-1) Under this regulation, the Commission (Eurostat) acquires important new areas of responsibility and monitoring functions. To enable it to implement them, adequate staff and financial resources must be made available. The financial resources that the Commission (Eurostat) will require should be provided through reallocation of monies within the European Union budget.

Or. de

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1) Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union provides that the Union shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on ***balanced*** economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social

(1) Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union provides that the Union shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on ***qualitative*** economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social

market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment.

market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment.

Or. de

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) The planned extension of ESA 95 by means of this regulation is overdue and urgent. The worldwide shortage of resources means, however, that this extension of the accounting system can be no more than a first step towards an internationally recognised system of ‘European sustainability statistics’ (ESS) which, as a priority, must include the full range of environmental and social indicators alongside economic indicators. A new ESS system of this type could also help to generate interest, particularly among younger citizens, in areas of responsibility where the only solutions lie in international cooperation – all the more so because it concerns demands that will legitimately be made on a habitable environment in the future.

Or. de

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2a) Scientifically sound approaches to

the shortage of resources and to ecosystem fragility will, in future, be crucial to the healthy economic development of the European Union.

Or. de

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) The need to supplement already existing indicators with data that incorporate environmental and social aspects in order to allow more coherent and comprehensive policy making has been recognised in Commission Communication COM(2009) 433 of August 2009 on GDP and beyond. To this end, environmental accounts offer a means of monitoring *the pressures exerted by* the economy on the environment and of exploring how these might be abated. In line with the tenets of sustainable development and the drive to achieve a *low-carbon* economy, embedded in the Lisbon Strategy and various major initiatives, developing a data framework that consistently includes environmental issues along with economic ones becomes all the more imperative.

Amendment

(4) The need to supplement already existing indicators with data that incorporate environmental and social aspects in order to allow more coherent and comprehensive policy making has been recognised in Commission Communication COM(2009) 433 of August 2009 on GDP and beyond. To this end, environmental accounts offer a means of monitoring *all the negative effects of* the economy on the environment and of exploring how these might be abated. In line with the tenets of sustainable development and the drive to achieve a *low-pollution* economy, embedded in the Lisbon Strategy and various major initiatives, developing a data framework that consistently includes environmental issues along with economic ones becomes all the more imperative.

Or. de

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) As the different sets of environmental

Amendment

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economic accounts are under development and at different stages of maturity, a modular structure providing adequate flexibility should be adopted.

economic accounts are under development and at different stages of maturity, a modular structure providing adequate flexibility should be adopted *for a transitional period of six years. The objective must be a uniform quality standard for a new, comprehensive ‘European sustainability statistics’ (ESS) system.*

Or. de

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation Article 1

Text proposed by the Commission

This Regulation establishes a common framework for the collection, compilation, transmission and evaluation of European environmental economic accounts for the purpose of setting up environmental economic accounts as satellite accounts to ESA 95 by providing methodology, common standards, definitions, classifications *and* accounting rules, intended to be used for compiling environmental economic accounts.

Amendment

This Regulation establishes a **binding** common framework for the collection, compilation, transmission and evaluation of European environmental economic accounts for the purpose of setting up environmental economic accounts as satellite accounts to ESA 95 by providing methodology, common standards, definitions, classifications, accounting rules *and objectives*, intended to be used for compiling environmental economic accounts.

Or. de

Amendment 8

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

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Regulation puts the Commission (Eurostat) in a position to make reliable forecasts, based on comparable national

data, about the environmental and economic situation of the individual Member States and the EU as a whole.

Or. de

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. In order for this regulation to contribute to building a system of ‘European sustainability statistics’ (ESS) providing a comprehensive overview of European interests of environmental relevance, the Commission must develop numerous modules, including in particular:

(a) modules for financial factors:

(i) environmental expenditure accounts;

(ii) environmental manufacturing and service provision accounts;

(iii) accounts for environment-related subsidies and measures;

(iv) accounts for use of resources;

(b) modules for tangible factors:

(i) energy accounts;

(ii) water accounts;

(iii) waste accounts;

(iv) accounts for international raw-materials cycles;

(v) accounts for imported emissions;

(c) asset modules:

(i) forestation accounts;

(ii) biodiversity accounts;

(iii) accounts for protected natural areas.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall draw up a programme for pilot studies to be carried out by Member States ***on a voluntary basis*** in order to develop the reporting and data quality, establish long time series and develop methodology.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall draw up a programme for pilot studies to be carried out by Member States in order to develop the reporting and data quality, establish long time series and develop methodology.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Commission (Eurostat) shall assess the quality of the data transmitted.

Amendment

4. The Commission (Eurostat) shall assess the quality of the data transmitted ***and may, within a time-limit of one month, raise an objection and require the Member State in question to submit an improved report.***

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. In order to raise the quality of the statistical data and make them more

meaningful, and to improve cooperation between the national statistics authorities and the Commission (Eurostat), this regulation shall be evaluated by the Commission (Eurostat) two years after it comes into force and the outcome of the evaluation shall be published.

Or. de

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation

Annex I – section 3 – point 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Name of air emission

Ozone

Symbol of air emission

O₃

Reporting unit

tonnes (Mg)

Or. de