



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

2010/0073(COD)

28.10.2010

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 829421 + AM 833153

PA_Legam

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.

(Ex AM 14(Or. DE) of FdR K:\econ\am\833\833153EN.doc){AM\DE\833153}

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital -1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(-1a) The funding made available must be used by the Commission (Eurostat) in an economically responsible, transparent and bureaucratically efficient manner. The results of the environmental economic accounts should be made available to the public in a readily accessible and understandable form.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital -1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(-1b) The additional human and financial resources which the Commission (Eurostat) will need in order to fulfil its expanded remit could be released, in the form of an ‘enlargement dividend’, by the transfer of superfluous staff from the Commission’s Directorate-General for Enlargement.

Amendment 4

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

(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 market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment', ***taking into consideration that these goals may be best achieved through open markets.***

Amendment 5

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.

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Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2a) A scientifically sound approach to the shortage of resources and to the ecosystem will, in future, be crucial to the sustainable economic development of the European Union.

(COMP D Ex AMS 5, 19, 20, 21(Or. EN) of FdR K:\econ\am\833\833153EN.doc){AM\EN\833153}

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4) The need to supplement already existing indicators with data that incorporate environmental and social aspects in order to allow more coherent and

(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.

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 ***resource-efficient and low-pollution*** economy, embedded in the ***Europe 2020 strategy*** and various major initiatives, developing a data framework that consistently includes environmental issues along with economic ones becomes all the more imperative. ***The establishment of the European environmental economic accounts is essential in this perspective, but should be seen as no more than a first step and should in no way prevent the development of alternative indicators to GDP, to cover a more extensive range of social and environmental factors, including indicators relating to living conditions, resource efficiency and the internalisation of environmental externalities, giving full attention to both monetarised and physical indicators.***

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Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) It is of great importance that the European environmental economic accounts, as soon as the system is fully operational, are actively and accurately used in all relevant EU policy making as a key input to impact assessments, action plans, legislative proposals and other significant products of the policy process.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) The Commission presented its first strategy on ‘green accounting’ in 1994. Since then the Commission (Eurostat) and the Member States have developed and tested accounting methods to the point where several Member States now regularly provide first sets of environmental accounts. Most common are physical flow accounts on air emissions (including greenhouse gases) and on material consumption and monetary accounts on environmental protection expenditure and taxes.

Amendment

(10) The Commission presented its first strategy on ‘green accounting’ in 1994. Since then the Commission (Eurostat) and the Member States have developed and tested accounting methods to the point where several Member States now regularly provide first sets of environmental accounts. Most common are physical flow accounts on air emissions (including greenhouse gases) and on material consumption and monetary accounts on environmental protection expenditure and taxes. ***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 should develop numerous modules, including modules for financial factors (e.g. environmental expenditure accounts, environmental manufacturing and service provision accounts, accounts for use of resources), modules for tangible factors (e.g. accounts for international raw-materials cycles, energy, water and waste accounts) and asset modules (e.g. forestation accounts, biodiversity accounts, accounts for protected natural areas). In order to complement the environmental focus of this system, indicators should also be developed for measuring sustainability in a broader sense, with an emphasis on issues such as the impact of the transport system, energy efficiency, green investments and social matters.***

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) As the different sets of environmental economic accounts are under development and at different stages of maturity, a modular structure providing adequate flexibility should be adopted.

Amendment

(13) As the different sets of environmental 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.**

~~(Oral AM: Ex AM 23(Or. EN) of FdR K:\econ\am\833\833153EN.doc){AM\EN\833153}~~

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 18 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(18a) In order for the Commission (Eurostat) to be able to meet the key new responsibilities that it acquires under this Regulation, adequate human and financial resources should be allocated through regrouping the existing financial resources in the budget of the European Union.

Amendment 12

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

Amendment

This Regulation establishes a **binding** common framework for the collection, compilation, transmission and evaluation of European environmental economic

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.

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.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation

Article 1 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

This 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.

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Amendment 14

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 shall develop numerous modules, including in particular modules for environmentally-related financial data, tangible environmental factors and natural assets.

~~(COMP B Ex AMS 10, 26, 27 (Or. EN) of FdR
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Amendment 15

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 ***within two years and in close relation to further developments on its Communication ‘GDP and beyond’, a comprehensive and coordinated*** programme for pilot studies to be carried out by Member States in order to develop the reporting and data quality, ***improve the methodology and*** establish long time series, ***including a broader inclusion of indicators relating to resource efficiency, internalisation of environmental externalities. This programme shall be published online and reported to the European Parliament and the Council.***

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Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. During the transitional periods, and for those Member States which need the transitional period to forward their data to Eurostat, the Commission (Eurostat) may assess the values of the modules listed in Article 3 of this Regulation.

Amendment 17

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.***

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Amendment 18

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

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. In order to further develop the European environmental economic accounts, including the cooperation between the national statistics authorities and the Commission (Eurostat) in this field, the Commission shall, by ...* and every four years thereafter, submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the quality and usefulness of the statistics compiled pursuant to this Regulation.

**** Two years from the entry into force of this Regulation.***

Amendment 19

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)

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Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Annex III – section 1 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

EW-MFA covers all solid, gaseous, and liquid materials, except for flows of air and water, measured in mass units per year. Like the system of national accounts, economy-wide material flow accounts serve two major purposes. The detailed material flows provide a rich empirical database for numerous analytical studies. They are also used to compile different economy-wide material flow indicators for national economies.

EW-MFA covers all solid, gaseous, and liquid materials ***and technosphere materials***, except for flows of air and water, measured in mass units per year. Like the system of national accounts, economy-wide material flow accounts serve two major purposes. The detailed material flows provide a rich empirical database for numerous analytical studies. They are also used to compile different economy-wide material flow indicators for national economies.

PROCEDURE

Title	European environmental economic accounts
References	COM(2010)0132 – C7-0092/2010 – 2010/0073(COD)
Committee responsible	ENVI
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	ECON 21.4.2010
Rapporteur Date appointed	Hans-Peter Martin 27.4.2010
Discussed in committee	28.9.2010 18.10.2010
Date adopted	26.10.2010
Result of final vote	+: 37 -: 0 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Burkhard Balz, Slavi Binev, Sharon Bowles, Udo Bullmann, Nikolaos Chountis, George Sabin Cutaş, Leonardo Domenici, Derk Jan Eppink, Diogo Feio, Markus Ferber, Elisa Ferreira, Vicky Ford, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz, Jean-Paul Gauzès, Sven Giegold, Sylvie Goulard, Liem Hoang Ngoc, Jürgen Klute, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Philippe Lamberts, Werner Langen, Astrid Lulling, Hans-Peter Martin, Ivari Padar, Anni Podimata, Olle Schmidt, Edward Scicluna, Peter Simon, Peter Skinner, Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, Marianne Thyssen
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Sophie Auconie, Sari Essayah, Ashley Fox, Thomas Mann, Gay Mitchell, Gianni Pittella, Andreas Schwab
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Enrique Guerrero Salom, Tatjana Ždanoka