



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2017/2052(INI)

26.01.2018

OPINION

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

for the Committee on Budgets

on the next MFF: Preparing Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020
(2017/2052(INI))

Rapporteur: Anneli Jäätteenmäki

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Calls on the Commission to structure the next multiannual financial framework (MFF) in a manner that clearly reflects the EU's priorities for the coming years, and directly and transparently contributes to investment in projects with clear European added value, particularly with respect to the resources needed for the transition to a low-carbon circular economy and to sustain and strengthen the EU's leading role in tackling climate change and to ensure that it can meet its international obligations under the Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals as well as its internal and external biodiversity commitments and goals;
2. Draws attention to the first recommendations of the High Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance¹, including those relating to the MFF, and emphasises that the sustainability objectives must be supported by a financial system capable of promoting long-term, sustainable growth; calls on the Commission also to examine and address these recommendations for the next MFF, including the need to develop a 'sustainability test' for all future EU financial regulations and policies, and for financial instruments to achieve greater policy steering effects;
3. Calls on the Commission to review the true impact on the state of the environment of CAP greening and environmental measures under the Rural Development Fund and to finance them on the basis of their genuine outcomes; underlines the separate funding of nature and biodiversity, and the need for separate funding of a transition to sustainable agriculture;
4. Invites the Commission to take note of the results of the mid-term review of the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) and in particular of the fact that its objectives are unlikely to be met by 2020; calls on the Commission to make the resources available to achieve these goals and additional ones with a view to the 2050 horizon, with special attention to environment-related pressures;
5. Notes that Article 2 of the Paris Agreement underlines the need to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development and that appropriate reforms to the MFF post-2020 are essential in order to reach net-zero emissions by 2050;
6. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the next MFF is consistent with the United Nations SDGs, in order to increase coherence in EU expenditure and to improve the balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions;
7. Highlights that the Union's budget will decrease as a consequence of Brexit; calls on the Commission therefore to define clear and strict priorities, as less money will be available;

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/170713-sustainable-finance-report_en.pdf

8. Stresses that the next MFF must be compatible with and actively contribute to the fulfilment of the commitments made by the Union externally such as the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations, and with its own long-term goals in the field of climate-relevant spending, and to a reform of the EU budget with a view to a more effective budget based on additional own resources; believes that this can only be achieved through thorough climate mainstreaming of EU spending, including on mitigation and adaptation and by monitoring the implementation of expenditure annually; calls on the Commission therefore to develop a transparent and reliable method of calculation that can provide evidence of expected impacts for climate-relevant spending, as well as their weighting for ex post assessment in reporting obligations;
9. Notes that a successful medium-term approach in environmental policy requires financial stability; considers in this context that a duration of seven years would be feasible also for the next MFF, providing appropriate flexibility and the possibility of a mid-term review;
10. Points out that, in order to attain the objectives of climate policy and improve the state of the environment, various policies must work together; calls for account to be taken of the possible funding of cohesion policy in this context;
11. Emphasises that the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon circular economy is the only way to ensure a healthy living environment and the long-term wellbeing of Union citizens and the European economy; considers that the EU should be the global frontrunner in the transition to a sustainable, circular low-carbon economy and a sustainable production-consumption system; recalls, in this context, the importance of the necessary development and research funding;
12. Recalls that the next MFF should help the Union achieve not only its environmental objectives and the 2030 climate and energy framework objectives, but also multilateral commitments related to sustainable development and the environment such as the Sustainable Development Goals or the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and in particular the Aichi Target thereof; stresses that the EU should not finance projects or investments which stand in the way of these objectives, make it more difficult to implement them or are incompatible with their achievement;
13. Underlines that the EU should support regions with high levels of air pollution in order to substantially improve air quality, as the problems are in many cases connected with energy poverty in those regions;
14. Stresses the importance of adequately funded programmes safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the environment, such as the LIFE Programme, being continued and strengthened as standalone and increased funding in the next MFF; underlines that LIFE is the only financial instrument under the EU budget that is wholly dedicated to the environment, nature conservation and climate change; calls on the Commission to ensure that future financial instruments for agriculture and rural and regional development contain dedicated envelopes for biodiversity and management of the Natura 2000 network, under co-management by national and regional environmental authorities;

15. Emphasises the potential offered by green infrastructure and nature-based solutions to deliver services for society in a cost efficient way; stresses the need for fair consideration to be given to these green alternatives for delivering services in decisions pertaining to rural and regional funding, and calls for the creation of a dedicated instrument to establish the Trans-European Network of Green Infrastructure (TEN-G) with a view to delivering biodiversity benefits;
16. Stresses that the various funds should be more coherent and work together more effectively to respond to national, regional and local challenges, such as enabling a just transition of coal-dependent regions, fighting energy poverty or combating biodiversity loss;
17. Recognises the European added value of collaboration in tackling common public health threats; considers that, on the basis of the initial positive outcomes of the ongoing health programme, the next MFF should include a robust health programme that tackles health issues on a cross-border basis and delivers support to Member States in the form of expertise and exchange of data, evidence and good practice; calls for the next MFF to reflect, inter alia with a significant increase in funding for the health programme, the EU's responsibility to implement SDG 3 on public health, health systems and environment-related health problems and to support Member States in tackling health inequalities that undermine social cohesion and hinder European integration;
18. Recognises the role of sustainable agriculture and forestry as key components of the EU's work in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss and furthering environmental sustainability; considers it necessary to ensure that the common agricultural policy (CAP) is aligned with the EU's environmental, biodiversity and climate goals and policies; recalls that the next MFF should steer the post-2020 CAP towards a fair, effective and efficient farming policy which has as its core objective facilitating the transition towards a sustainable food and farming system in Europe, and stresses that sufficient funding to reach the targets must be provided; welcomes the Commission's strategic approach presented in its communication of 29 November 2011 entitled 'The Future of Food and Farming' (COM(2017)0713) to provide the Member States with more flexibility in finding appropriate means to steer their agricultural sectors towards reaching the common environmental targets in the most effective way;
19. Calls on the Commission to further support research and innovation on alternatives to animal testing, and to allocate more financial resources to R&D projects carried out in the EU; asks the Commission and the Member States to continue to fund the development of alternatives and to work within international structures to speed up the validation and acceptance of alternative methods and to support third countries with knowledge transfer where scientists may lack awareness of alternative methods and financially where testing facilities may lack the necessary infrastructure;
20. Emphasises that the next MFF needs to consider the social challenges for local and regional communities which have a high share of workers in carbon-dependent sectors in their necessary transition to a low-carbon society; requests that EU funds and programmes be dedicated in a coherent way to facilitating a just transition in those communities by supporting the deployment, re-skilling and up-skilling of workers, education, job-seeking initiatives and start-ups, in close dialogue with the social

partners;

21. Stresses the importance of strengthening and streamlining climate and energy policy, in particular all energy union objectives, which should be supported by existing instruments, i.e. within cohesion policy, and new ones;
22. Calls for the funding of the EU agencies to correspond to the tasks entrusted to them;
23. Flags the need, with regard to the Paris Agreement commitments, to establish a comprehensive instrument for coal-dependent regions and countries in order to support a just energy transition, in particular as regards the development and deployment of renewable sources, modernisation of power generation and grids, early adaptation to future environmental standards, restructuring processes concerning carbon-dependent sectors, modernisation of district heating (including high-efficiency cogeneration), energy storage, electro-mobility solutions and infrastructure, and energy efficiency solutions;
24. Recalls the importance of preventing and investigating the misuse of funds and the importance of an anti-fraud policy; stresses also the importance of cooperation with third countries with a view to creating an early monitoring system for the most dangerous products of all, which can harm the health and safety of the public and damage our environment;
25. Recalls that good health is a prerequisite for achieving other goals set by the EU and that policies in areas such as agriculture, the environment, social policy, inclusion and employment have an impact on health; calls therefore for a strengthened impact assessment on health and cross-sectoral cooperation in the next MFF;
26. Stresses the importance of decentralised EU agencies in the implementation of the EU objectives on protecting human health and the environment (ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EFSA, EMA); calls on the Commission to guarantee sustainable and safe resourcing structures for them under the next MFF;
27. Calls for an increase in the share of the total EU budget allocated to cohesion policy measures post-2020, recognising the major contribution of the European Structural and Investment funds to improving environmental and healthcare infrastructure and closing socio-economic gaps between regions; stresses that the effectiveness of financial instruments does not replace the absolute need for grants in some areas, particularly for innovative and risky projects;
28. Stresses that EU spending in external policies should maintain a high level of ambition as regards climate and environmentally relevant spending;
29. Calls for the legislative process to adopt the next MFF to be concluded before the 2019 European elections in order to allow sufficient time for the negotiation of sectoral EU legislation and to avoid delays in the implementation of new programmes;
30. Stresses the need to provide EU financial assistance for nuclear decommissioning beyond 2020 in the context of the next MFF in order to ensure effective protection of the environment and public health against the dangers arising from radiation; underlines

the unique nature of the long-term and complex process of decommissioning and waste disposal, which requires the availability of specific technical equipment, highly skilled personnel and adequate financial resources.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	24.1.2018
Result of final vote	+: 43 -: 3 0: 8
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Seb Dance, Mark Demesmaeker, Stefan Eck, José Inácio Faria, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Arne Gericke, Julie Girling, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Jytte Guteland, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Karin Kadenbach, Urszula Krupa, Giovanni La Via, Jo Leinen, Peter Liese, Joëlle Mélin, Susanne Melior, Gilles Pargneaux, Piernicola Pedicini, Bolesław G. Piecha, John Procter, Julia Reid, Frédérique Ries, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Renate Sommer, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Ivica Tolić, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Elena Gentile, Martin Häusling, Norbert Lins, Nuno Melo, Ulrike Müller, Christel Schaldemose, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor, Carlos Zorrinho
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	France Jamet, Jiří Maštálka

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

43	+
ALDE	Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Ulrike Müller, Frédérique Ries
EFDD	Piernicola Pedicini
GUE/NGL	Stefan Eck, Jiří Maštálka
PPE	Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Birgit Collin-Langen, José Inácio Faria, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Nuno Melo, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Ivica Tolić, Adina-Ioana Vălean
S&D	Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Seb Dance, Elena Gentile, Jytte Guteland, Karin Kadenbach, Jo Leinen, Susanne Melior, Gilles Pargneaux, Christel Schaldemose, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Damiano Zoffoli, Carlos Zorrinho
Verts/ALE	Marco Affronte, Martin Häusling, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor

3	-
EFDD	Julia Reid
ENF	France Jamet, Joëlle Mélin

8	0
ECR	Mark Demesmaeker, Arne Gericke, Julie Girling, Urszula Krupa, Bolesław G. Piecha, John Procter, Jadwiga Wiśniewska
EPP	Renate Sommer

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention