



2020/2532(RSP)

21.2.2020

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B9-0000/2020

pursuant to Rule 136(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change
(2020/2532(RSP))

Lídia Pereira

Marek Paweł Balt

Fredrick Federley

Simona Baldassarre

Pär Holmgren

Alexandr Vondra

Petros Kokkalis

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

B9-0000/2020

European Parliament resolution on EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change (2020/2532(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,
- having regard to the Agreement adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP21) in Paris on 12 December 2015 (the Paris Agreement),
- having regard to the EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change of April 2013 and its accompanying Staff Working Paper,
- having regard to the report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council of 12 November 2018 on the implementation of the EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change,
- having regard to the UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2018,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 11 December 2019 on ‘The European Green Deal’ (COM(2019)0640),
- having regard to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) special report on global warming of 1,5 °C, its fifth assessment report (AR5) and its synthesis report thereon, its special report on climate change and land, and its special report on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate,
- having regard to the 2019 Global Commission on Adaptation’s flagship report on climate adaptation,
- having regard to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- having regards to its resolution of 9 January 2020 on the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity,
- having regards to its resolution of 15 January 2020 on the European Green Deal,
- having regard to its resolution of 28 November 2019 on the climate and environment emergency,
- having regard to the European Environment Agency’s report on Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2016,
- having regard to the European Environment Agency’s indicator assessment entitled ‘Economic losses from climate-related extremes in Europe’, of 2 April 2019,

- having regard to the European Environment Agency’s report entitled ‘climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector in Europe’, of 4 September 2019,
 - having regard to the European Environment Agency’s report entitled ‘The European environment — state and outlook 2020: knowledge for transition to a sustainable Europe’, of 4 December 2019,
 - having regard to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction of 2015,
 - having regard to its resolution of 8 September 2015 on the follow-up to the European Citizens’ Initiative Right2Water,
 - having regard to the 2018 European Court of Auditors special report entitled “Combating desertification in the EU: a growing threat in need of more action”,
 - having regard to the question to the Commission on EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change (O-000000/2020 – B9 0000/2020),
 - having regard to Rules 136(5) and 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety,
- A. whereas climate change is continuing globally and in Europe and there is further evidence that future climate change will increase climate-related extremes in many EU regions;
 - B. whereas the observed changes in climate already have wide-ranging impacts on ecosystems, economic sectors and human health;
 - C. whereas different regions and sectors in the EU are affected differently by climate change;
 - D. whereas the water sector, agriculture, forestry and biodiversity are strongly linked, and also related to changing land-use patterns and population change; whereas climate change impacts in other parts of the world may affect the EU through trade, international financial flows, migration and security;
 - E. whereas the projected damage costs from climate change are expected to be high, even when implementing the Paris Agreement;
 - F. whereas climate change and its impacts can be substantially reduced by an ambitious global mitigation policy compatible with the mitigation goal of the Paris Agreement; whereas current emission reduction commitments will not achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, but would result in global warming beyond 3°C above pre-industrial levels;
 - G. whereas adaptation to climate change is necessary to anticipate the adverse effects of climate change and to prevent or reduce short- and long-term risks from climate change;

General observations

1. Emphasises that adaptation is needed for all countries to minimise negative effects and

make full use of the opportunities for climate-resilient growth and sustainable development; in that context, stresses its unwavering commitment to the global goal for adaptation as defined in the Paris Agreement;

2. Calls for a renewed focus on adaptation; welcomes therefore that the Commission will present a new Strategy and considers it as an opportunity to show the EU global leadership on adaptation; considers that the new Strategy should be an integral part of the European Green Deal with the aim of building a resilient Europe with a high adaptive capacity enabling it to pursue a radical transformation in terms of boosting economic growth, ensuring water and food security, turning to clean energy sources and ensuring climate and social justice;
3. Welcomes the Commission's evaluation of the current EU strategy on adaptation to climate change of November 2018 and takes note of its conclusion that the wide-ranging objectives of the strategy have not been completely fulfilled, but progress has been made towards all of its individual actions;
4. Notes that more could be done to integrate adaptation in infrastructure and calls for effective climate proofing of public infrastructure and other investments;
5. Regrets that the 2013 Strategy fails to properly address the urgency of implementing adaptation measures; calls for strengthened governance of the new Strategy, a more frequent review process and clear goals and indicators to measure progress in its implementation;
6. Notes also that progress has been lower than expected on the number of local adaptation strategies with differences between Member States; calls on the Commission to ensure that, despite these differences, all EU regions are prepared to tackle the impacts of climate change through adaptation; recognises in this context the value of the Covenant of Mayors which has increased cooperation on adaptation at local level;
7. Highlights the importance to further promote climate adaptation in regions and cities in the new Strategy, such as through promoting legislative frameworks requiring adequate adaptation strategies also at these levels;
8. Recalls, in light of the close link between climate change mitigation and adaptation, the importance of mitigation as the impacts of climate change and efforts needed for adaptation vary depending on the increase in global temperature;

Nature-based solutions and green infrastructure

9. Recalls that climate change and its impacts affect humans but also biodiversity and marine and terrestrial ecosystems and that according to the IPBES landmark report, climate change is one of the direct drivers of biodiversity loss;
10. Stresses the importance of using sustainable nature-based adaptation solutions and conservation and restoration of ecosystems that can simultaneously contribute to climate mitigation, protection of biodiversity and combatting pollution; calls on the new Strategy to include ambitious plans on stepping up the use of these solutions;

11. Highlights the potential of forests and trees in climate adaptation and in the provision of ecosystem services as, for instance, trees in urban areas can even out extreme temperatures in addition to other benefits such as improving air quality; calls for increased planting of trees in cities and for an integrated answer to forest fires in order to protect Europe's forests against the destruction by extreme climate events;
12. Recognises the role of oceans in adapting to climate change and stresses the need to promote healthy and resilient seas and oceans;
13. Supports initiatives, including the development of urban strategies, to use the potential of roofs and other infrastructure, such as urban gardens, green roofs, cool pavements or other measures that can contribute to cooling, retention of water and production of food, while reducing air pollution, improving quality of life in cities and protecting biodiversity, including pollinators; believes that infrastructure such as roads, train tracks, power systems and others need to be made climate-proof;
14. Calls for better water management, including the creation of sustainable drainage and natural water retention measures to help moderate flooding and droughts;

Adaptation measures and coherence

15. Emphasises the need to mainstream climate adaptation into all relevant EU policies, such as agriculture, maritime and fisheries policy;
16. Calls for the new Strategy to be coherent with global action and agreements such as the Paris Agreement, SDGs and the Convention on Biological Diversity; requests the Commission to identify actions that promote and facilitate adaptation outside of the EU in the new Strategy;
17. Calls for the Commission to adequately address desertification and land degradation and to develop a methodology and indicators to assess their extent; calls for sufficient funding for combating desertification and land degradation;

Financing

18. Calls for increased funding at all governance levels and for mobilising public and private investments in adaptation; recalls Parliament's position calling for climate mainstreaming in the next MFF 2021-2027 of at least 25% of expenditure and 30% as soon as possible, and at the latest by 2027 which should contribute to both climate mitigation and adaptation; calls for climate resilience to be considered as a key criterion in all relevant EU funding; considers that EIB as a climate bank should also fund climate adaptation measures;
19. Regrets that the EU's tracking methodology for climate funding does not differentiate between mitigation and adaptation;
20. Acknowledges that adaptation has a cost; insists, however, on the importance of making these investments as in addition to saving lives and protecting the environment, preventive actions can be more cost-effective; emphasises the principle of prevention and calls on the Commission to develop approaches to ensure that costs arising from a failure

to take adaptation measures are not passed on to the general public;

Awareness-raising, adaptation knowledge and research

21. Underlines the importance of raising awareness on the effects of climate change, including on health, and the benefits of adaptation, among decision makers but also through educational activities at all stages of life;
22. Calls for bridging current knowledge gaps to ensure informed decision-making, by further developing tools such as Climate-ADAPT and EIT Climate-KIC;
23. Stresses the importance of supporting research on climate adaptation, nature-based solutions, green technologies and other solutions that can help in the fight against climate change and extreme weather phenomena;

Early warning and rapid response

24. Calls for the new Strategy to put a stronger focus on crisis prevention and preparedness planning, management and disaster response;
25. Urges Member States to develop adequate rapid response plans in the event of climate disasters such as heat waves, floods and drought;
26. Requests local authorities to establish [early warning systems](#) and prepare appropriate tools to respond to extreme weather events;

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27. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the European Commission.