



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2012/0337(COD)

26.3.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

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

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 "Living well,
within the limits of our planet"
(COM(2012)0710 – C7-0392/2012 – 2012/0337(COD))

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PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Living well, within the limits of our planet

With the present legislative proposal the European Commission intends to establish for the period from 2013 to 2020 the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP) for a since the first one in 1973. As the 6th EAP was about to expire in July 2012, the European Parliament urged the European Commission in its resolution¹ on 20 April 2012 to present as soon as possible a follow-up programme in order to enable a transition towards a sustainable future, to ensure continuity and avoid any gaps. With its resolution the Parliament invited the Commission to base its future proposal on the following three priorities: implementation and strengthening of environmental legislation, integration of environmental objectives into all sectoral policies and the international dimension of environment protection.

In November 2012 the Commission submitted its draft for a Decision on a General Union Environment Action Programme entitled "*Living well, within the limits of our planet*". Like with previous programmes, the proposed 7th EAP aims at forming an overarching framework for the different environmental measures, roadmaps and legislation that have been recently published by the Commission. It is intended that all existing environment-related 2020 targets for the different policy areas are included and examined in conjunction with each other. Furthermore the EAP proposal at hand presents a long-term perspective by providing a vision for 2050. The new EAP aims to step up the contribution of environment policy to the transition towards a resource-efficient, low-carbon economy in which natural capital is protected and enhanced, and the health and well-being of citizens is safeguarded.

The European Commission outlines in the Annex of the draft an array of *nine priority objectives* for the EU and its Member States to attain:

1. to protect, conserve and enhance the Unions natural capital;
2. to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy;
3. to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing;
4. to maximise the benefits of the Union's environment legislation;
5. to improve the evidence base for environment policy;
6. to secure investment for environment and climate policy and get the prices right;
7. to improve environmental integration and policy coherence;
8. to enhance the sustainability of the Union's cities;
9. to increase the Unions effectiveness in confronting regional and global environmental challenges.

Environmental challenges for the agriculture sector

The agricultural sector faces significant pressures in the context of increasing global demand for food, limited resources, the need for environmental protection measures and the challenges to food production posed by climate change.

¹ P7_TA-PROV(2012)0147: European Parliament resolution of 20 April 2012 on the review of the 6th Environment Action Programme and the setting of priorities for the 7th Environment Action Programme – A better environment for a better life (2011/2194(INI)).

Agriculture contributes significantly to GHG emissions but together with forests has also a significant potential for climate change mitigation through carbon absorption and storage. Research and innovation can also play a key role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, for example by reducing emissions from agriculture and improving the resilience of crops to the effects of climate change.

Resource efficiency in food production will be key to meeting current and future challenges in view of limited natural resources. According to the FAO, the global population will grow by one third by 2050. In conjunction with modified consumption patterns, this will increase demand for food by 70 %. It is therefore crucial that European agriculture achieves the best possible levels of sustainability and resource-efficiency.

It is also important to recall that food waste at the global level has risen by 50 % since 1974 and urgent action is needed to address food wastage within the food chain.

The legislative proposals for the CAP reform seek to link direct payments to public goods provision and to earmark funding from the EAFRD to agri-environmental measures. The intended effect of this is to promote environmentally beneficial practices such as crop diversification, the protection of permanent grasslands and the establishment and maintenance of ecologically valuable farmland and forest areas.

The Union needs to develop a comprehensive response to climate change in order to maintain the resilience and competitiveness of European agriculture so that it can continue to play its role as supplier of high quality food and environmental services, as well as contributing to the sustainable development of EU rural areas.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development 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 decision

Annex – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Emissions of pollutants to air, water and soil have been reduced **significantly** over the past decades, as have greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in recent years. EU chemicals legislation has been modernised and the use of many toxic or hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium and

Amendment

2. Emissions of pollutants to air, water and soil have been reduced over the past decades, as have greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in recent years. EU chemicals legislation has been modernised and the use of many toxic or hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium and mercury has

mercury has been restricted in products found in most households. EU citizens enjoy some of the best water quality in the world, and over 18% of the EU's territory and 4% of its seas have been designated as protected areas for nature.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. However, many environmental trends in the EU remain worrying, not least due to insufficient implementation of existing EU environment legislation. Only 17% of species and habitats assessed under the Habitats Directive are in good status, ***and the degradation and loss of natural capital is jeopardising efforts to attain the EU's biodiversity and climate change objectives. This has high associated costs which have not yet been properly valued in our economic or social system.*** Thirty per cent of the EU's territory is highly fragmented, affecting the connectivity and health of ecosystems and their ability to provide services as well as viable habitats for species. While progress has been made in the EU to decouple growth from GHG emissions, resource use and environmental impacts, resource use is still largely unsustainable and inefficient, and waste is not yet properly managed. As a result, EU businesses are foregoing the significant opportunities that resource efficiency offers in terms of competitiveness, cost reductions, improved productivity and security of supply. Water quality and air pollution levels are still problematic in many parts of Europe, and EU citizens continue to be exposed to hazardous substances, potentially compromising their health and wellbeing. Unsustainable land use is consuming fertile soils, with impacts

been restricted in products found in most households. EU citizens enjoy some of the best water quality in the world, and over 18% of the EU's territory and 4% of its seas have been designated as protected areas for nature.

Amendment

5. However, many environmental trends in the EU remain worrying, not least due to insufficient implementation of existing EU environment legislation. Only 17% of species and habitats assessed under the Habitats Directive are in good status. Thirty per cent of the EU's territory is highly fragmented, affecting the connectivity and health of ecosystems and their ability to provide services as well as viable habitats for species. While progress has been made in the EU to decouple growth from GHG emissions, resource use and environmental impacts, resource use is still largely unsustainable and inefficient, and waste is not yet properly managed. As a result, EU businesses are foregoing the significant opportunities that resource efficiency offers in terms of competitiveness, cost reductions, improved productivity and security of supply. Water quality and air pollution levels are still problematic in many parts of Europe, and EU citizens continue to be exposed to hazardous substances, potentially compromising their health and wellbeing. Unsustainable land use is consuming fertile soils, with impacts on food security and the achievement of biodiversity targets. Soil degradation continues largely unchecked.

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Amendment 3 **Proposal for a decision**

Annex – paragraph 9

Text proposed by the Commission

9. To live well in the future, urgent, concerted action should be taken now to improve ecological resilience and maximise the benefits environment policy can deliver for the economy and society, while respecting the planet's ecological limits. This programme reflects the EU's commitment ***to transforming itself into*** an inclusive green economy that secures growth and development, safeguards human health and well-being, provides decent jobs, reduces inequalities and invests in and preserves natural capital.

Amendment

9. To live well in the future, urgent, concerted action should be taken now to improve ecological resilience and maximise the benefits environment policy can deliver for the economy and society, while respecting the planet's ecological limits. This programme reflects the EU's commitment, ***as a bloc whose actions have a global impact, to working internationally to promote a transition to*** an inclusive green economy that secures growth and development, safeguards human health and well-being ***and food quality (in terms of hygiene, nutritional value and organoleptic properties)***, provides decent jobs, reduces inequalities and invests in and preserves natural capital.

Amendment 4 **Proposal for a decision**

Annex – paragraph 11

Text proposed by the Commission

11. This transformation requires the full integration of environment issues into other policies, such as energy, transport, agriculture, fisheries, economy and industry, research and innovation, employment and social policy so as to create a coherent, joined-up approach. Action within the EU should also be complemented by enhanced global action

Amendment

11. This transformation requires the full integration of environment issues into other policies, such as energy, transport, agriculture, fisheries, ***international trade***, economy and industry, research and innovation, employment and social policy ***and tax policy (environmental revenue)***, so as to create a coherent, joined-up approach. Action within the EU should

and cooperation with neighbouring countries to tackle common challenges.

also be complemented by enhanced global action and cooperation with neighbouring countries to tackle common challenges.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 16

Text proposed by the Commission

16. The EU's economic prosperity and well-being is underpinned by its natural capital, which includes ecosystems that provide essential goods and services, from fertile soil and multi-functional forests to productive land and seas, from fresh water and clean air to pollination, flood control and climate regulation and protection against natural disasters. A substantial body of EU legislation seeks to protect, conserve and enhance natural capital, including the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the Air Quality and related directives and the Habitats and Birds Directives. Legislation to tackle climate change, chemicals, industrial emissions and waste also contribute to easing the pressures on biodiversity, including ecosystems, species and habitats.

Amendment

16. The EU's economic prosperity and well-being is underpinned by its natural capital, which includes ***natural and farmed*** ecosystems that provide essential goods and services, from fertile soil and multi-functional forests to ***multifunctional***, productive land ***in all regions*** and seas, from fresh water and clean air to pollination, flood control and climate regulation and protection against natural disasters. A substantial body of EU legislation seeks to protect, conserve and enhance natural capital, including the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the Air Quality and related directives and the Habitats and Birds Directives. Legislation to tackle climate change, chemicals, industrial emissions and waste also contribute to easing the pressures on biodiversity, including ecosystems, species and habitats.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 18

Text proposed by the Commission

18. Despite considerable efforts to date, the requirement under the WFD to achieve

Amendment

18. Despite considerable efforts to date, the requirement under the WFD to achieve

‘good ecological status’ by 2015 is likely to be met only for some 53 % of surface water bodies in the EU. There is also a risk that the Marine Strategy Framework Directive target to achieve ‘good environmental status’ by 2020 may be missed, inter alia due to continued overfishing and the presence of marine litter in Europe’s seas. And while EU air and industrial emissions policies have helped to reduce many forms of pollution, ecosystems continue to suffer from excess nitrogen deposition and ozone pollution associated with emissions from transport, *intensive* agriculture and power generation.

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Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision Annex – paragraph 19

Text proposed by the Commission

19. Protecting, conserving and enhancing the EU’s natural capital therefore also requires tackling problems at source through, inter alia, better integration of natural capital objectives into other policies, ensuring that policies are coherent and deliver co-benefits. The greening elements set out in the **Commission’s** reform proposals, notably for EU agriculture, fisheries and cohesion policy, backed by the proposals for greening the EU budget under the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020 (MFF) **are designed to** support **these objectives**. **For instance**, aquatic ecosystems in rural areas should benefit from the linking of farm payments to compliance with relevant requirements of the WFD as set out in the Commission’s proposals for the reform of the CAP. Greening of the CAP will also promote **the** environmentally beneficial agricultural practices **of crop**

Amendment

19. Protecting, conserving and enhancing the EU’s natural capital therefore also requires tackling problems at source through, inter alia, better integration of natural capital objectives into other policies, ensuring that policies are coherent and deliver co-benefits. The greening elements set out in the reform proposals, notably for EU agriculture, fisheries and cohesion policy, **are** backed by the proposals for greening the EU budget under the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2014-2020 (MFF), **which will therefore have to make provision for a budget that is sufficient to support them**. Aquatic ecosystems in rural areas should benefit from the **final transposition** of the WFD, **once that directive has been implemented in an equivalent manner in all Member States**, as set out in the Commission’s proposals for the reform of the CAP. **Further** greening of the CAP

diversification, the protection of permanent grassland, and the establishment and maintenance of ecologically valuable farmland and forest areas.

will also promote environmentally beneficial agricultural practices in connection with direct payments and with rural development programmes. An essential element in this sustainable agriculture is farming in a spirit of responsibility for future generations which at the same time makes sparing use of resources and is productive.

Amendment 8
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 19 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

19a. Farming in the Union has for decades contributed to the conservation of habitats and to diverse cultural landscapes. In recent decades, European agriculture and forestry have achieved considerable improvements in the case of all elements of the environment and all agriculturally relevant emissions of substances, in some cases by organising production efficiently.

Amendment 9
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 22

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

22. The degradation, fragmentation and unsustainable use of land in the EU is jeopardising the provision of several key ecosystem services, threatening biodiversity and increasing Europe's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. It is also driving soil degradation. More than 25% of the EU's territory is affected by soil erosion by water, which compromises soil functions and affects the

22. The degradation, fragmentation and unsustainable use of land in the EU is jeopardising the provision of several key ecosystem services, threatening biodiversity and increasing Europe's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. It is also driving soil degradation. More than 25% of the EU's territory is affected by soil erosion by water, which compromises soil functions and affects the

quality of freshwater. Soil contamination and sealing are also persistent problems. More than half a million sites across the EU are thought to be contaminated and until they are identified and assessed, they continue to pose potentially serious environmental and health risks. Every year more than 1 000 km² of land are taken for housing, industry, transport or recreational purposes. These long-term changes are difficult or costly to reverse, and nearly always involve trade-offs between various social, economic and environmental needs. Member States' planning decisions relating to land use should be made more sustainable.

quality of freshwater. Soil contamination and sealing are also persistent problems. More than half a million sites across the EU are thought to be contaminated and until they are identified and assessed, they continue to pose potentially serious environmental and health risks. Every year more than 1 000 km² of land are taken for housing, industry, transport or recreational purposes. These long-term changes are difficult or costly to reverse, and nearly always involve trade-offs between various social, economic and environmental needs. Member States' planning decisions relating to land use should be made more sustainable. ***In order to tackle the serious problem of soil sealing, Member States should be required to take steps to reduce the area of land used and to preserve agricultural land areas for the production of food, feed and renewable raw materials.***

Amendment 10

Proposal for a decision Annex – paragraph 22 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

22 a. Agriculture and forestry represent together 78% of land cover in the Union. Agriculture and forestry therefore continue to play a major role in maintaining natural resources and cultural landscapes as a precondition for other human activities in rural areas. Afforestation plays a key role in soil fixation and in climate change adaptation and mitigation, whilst sustainable agriculture can contribute to better soil preservation. At the same time, emphasis should be put on integrated and innovative agriculture practices like precision technologies and ecological

approaches and special attention should be given to increasing soil fertility with non chemical fertilizers and sustainable yields increase.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 23

Text proposed by the Commission

23. To reduce the most significant man-made pressures on land, soil and other ecosystems in Europe, action will be taken to ensure that decisions relating to land use at all relevant levels give proper consideration to environmental as well as social and economic impacts. The Rio+20 Summit outcome called for a 'land degradation neutral world'. ***The EU and Member States should reflect on how best to make such a commitment operational within their respective competencies as well as to address*** soil quality issues within ***a*** binding legal ***framework***. Targets will also be set for sustainable land use and soil.

Amendment

23. To reduce the most significant man-made pressures on land, soil and other ecosystems in Europe, action will be taken ***at national level*** to ensure that decisions relating to land use at all relevant levels give proper consideration to environmental as well as social and economic impacts. The Rio+20 Summit outcome called for a 'land degradation neutral world'. Such a commitment ***could best be honoured within the Member States.***

In view of the subsidiarity principle, soil quality issues ***can best be addressed*** within binding legal ***frameworks at the level of the Member States.*** Targets will also be set for sustainable land use and soil.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 24

Text proposed by the Commission

24. Although nitrogen and phosphorus inputs to the EU environment have decreased considerably over the past 20 years, ***excessive*** nutrient releases continue to affect air and water quality and to have a

Amendment

24. Although nitrogen and phosphorus inputs to the EU environment have decreased considerably over the past 20 years, ***substantial*** nutrient releases continue to affect air and water quality and

negative impact on ecosystems, causing significant problems for human health. In particular, ammonia release from *inefficient* fertiliser management and *inadequate* waste water treatment *urgently need* to be tackled to achieve further significant reductions in nutrient releases. Further efforts to manage the nutrient cycle in a more cost-effective and resource-efficient way, and to improve efficiency in use of fertilisers are also required. This calls for improving the implementation of EU environmental legislation to address these challenges, *tightening* standards where necessary and addressing the nutrient cycle as part of a more holistic approach which interlinks and integrates existing EU policies that play a role in tackling excessive nutrient releases and eutrophication.

to have a negative impact on ecosystems, causing significant problems for human health. In particular, ammonia release from *natural processes* (fertiliser management and waste water treatment) *needs* to be tackled to achieve further significant reductions in nutrient releases. Further efforts to manage the nutrient cycle in a more cost-effective and resource-efficient way, and to improve efficiency in use of fertilisers are also required, *as well as creating a sustainable nutrient cycle between urban and rural areas*. This calls for *investments in research*, improving the implementation of EU environmental legislation to address these challenges, *adjusting* standards where necessary and addressing the nutrient cycle as part of a more holistic approach which interlinks and integrates existing EU policies, *for example Horizon 2020*, that play a role in tackling excessive nutrient releases and eutrophication.

Annex –Amendment 13 Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 26 – subparagraph 1 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) Land is managed sustainably in the EU, soil is adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites is well underway.

Amendment

(e) Land is managed sustainably in the EU, soil is adequately protected *in Member States* and the remediation of contaminated sites *by the Member States* is well underway.

Amendment 14 Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 26 – subparagraph 1 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

(g) Forests and the services they provide are protected and their resilience to climate

Amendment

(g) Forests and the *multitude of* services they provide are protected and *sustainably*

change and fires is improved.

managed and their resilience to climate change and fires is improved, *since forests are an important renewable source of raw materials*.

Amendment 15
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 26 – subparagraph 1 – point g a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ga) Pollination is maintained at a high level, measures are taken to support and foster bee health and, where necessary, measures are taken to ensure that the use of plant protection products which have been shown by a scientific risk assessment to have an adverse impact on bee populations is accompanied by the implementation of risk reduction measures.

Amendment 16
Proposal for a decision

Annex – point 26 – subparagraph 2 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) Taking further steps to safeguard, boost and support agricultural sectors that make a proven contribution to biodiversity, and in particular the bee keeping sector.

Amendment 17
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 26 – subparagraph 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) Increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion

(e) Increasing efforts *at national level* to

and increase soil organic matter, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives.

reduce soil erosion and increase soil organic matter – *inter alia by preserving and expanding tried and tested agrienvironmental programmes in the rural development of the CAP* –, to remediate contaminated sites and to enhance the integration of land use aspects into coordinated decision-making involving all relevant levels of government, supported by the adoption of targets on soil and on land as a resource, and land planning objectives; *increasing efforts at national level to reduce the area of land used and to preserve agricultural land areas for the production of food, feed and renewable raw materials.*

Amendment 18

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 26 – subparagraph 2 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(g) Developing and implementing a new EU Forest Strategy that addresses the multiple demands on and benefits of forests and contributes to a more strategic approach to protecting and enhancing forests.

deleted

Amendment 19

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 28

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

28. Innovation to improve resource efficiency is required across the economy to improve competitiveness in the context of rising resource prices, scarcity and supply constraints. The business sector is

28. **Research and** innovation to improve resource efficiency is required across the economy to improve competitiveness in the context of rising resource prices, scarcity and supply constraints. ***There is a need for***

the prime driver of innovation, including eco-innovation. However, markets will not deliver on their own. Government action, at Union and Member State level, is essential to provide the right framework conditions for eco-innovation, stimulating the development of sustainable business or technological solutions to environmental challenges.

innovation in the energy consumption of agricultural machinery in order to increase energy efficiency and reduce CO2 emissions, as well as a need to incentivise the modernisation of farms in order to adopt innovative methods and technology. The business sector is the prime driver of innovation, including eco-innovation. However, markets will not deliver on their own. Government action, at Union and Member State level, is essential to provide the right framework conditions for eco-innovation, stimulating the development of sustainable business or technological solutions to environmental challenges.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 30

Text proposed by the Commission

30. Fully implementing the EU Climate and Energy Package is essential to reach the milestones identified for 2020 and for building a competitive, low-carbon economy by 2050. Whereas the EU is currently on track to reduce domestic GHG emissions 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, meeting the 20% energy efficiency target will require far more rapid efficiency improvements. This is also important in the light of still-growing demand for energy *and the on-going debate on conflicts between land use for food and for bio-energy*. The new Energy Efficiency Directive is expected to make a significant contribution in this regard.

Amendment

30. Fully implementing the EU Climate and Energy Package is essential to reach the milestones identified for 2020 and for building a competitive, low-carbon economy by 2050. Whereas the EU is currently on track to reduce domestic GHG emissions 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, meeting the 20% energy efficiency target will require far more rapid efficiency improvements. This is also important in the light of still-growing demand for energy. The new Energy Efficiency Directive is expected to make a significant contribution in this regard.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 32

Text proposed by the Commission

32. Industry's uptake of the best available techniques under the Industrial Emissions Directive will deliver improved resource use patterns and reduced emissions for over 50 000 major industrial installations in the EU, thus making a significant contribution to stimulating the development of innovative techniques, greening the economy and reducing costs for industry in the longer term.

Amendment

32. Industry's uptake of the best available techniques under the Industrial Emissions Directive will deliver improved resource use patterns and reduced emissions for over 50 000 major industrial installations in the EU, thus making a significant contribution to stimulating the development of innovative techniques, greening the economy and reducing costs for industry in the longer term. ***At the same time, advances in the research field and the creation of short supply chains and local markets for agricultural products can significantly reduce CO₂ emissions from the transport of food. Short supply routes provide more fresh and healthy food.***

Amendment 22
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 35

Text proposed by the Commission

35. To set a framework for action to improve resource efficiency aspects beyond GHG emissions and energy, targets for reducing the overall environmental impact of consumption will be set, in particular in the food, housing and mobility sectors. Taken together, these are responsible for almost 80% of the environmental impacts of consumption. The Rio+20 outcome recognised the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain.

Amendment

35. To set a framework for action to improve resource efficiency aspects beyond GHG emissions and energy, targets for reducing the overall environmental impact of consumption will be set, in particular in the food ***sector, through a reduction in waste, and the*** housing and mobility sectors. Taken together, these are responsible for almost 80% of the environmental impacts of consumption. The Rio+20 outcome recognised the need to significantly reduce post-harvest and other food losses and waste throughout the food supply chain. ***This may be achieved by improving the value attached to food and by means of regional marketing and improving logistics, transport, stocking***

and packaging. All parties throughout the food chain, particularly traders and consumers, have a role to play. This also includes targeted consumer education and information.

Amendment 23

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 39

Text proposed by the Commission

39. Resource efficiency in the water sector will also be tackled as a priority to help deliver good water status. Even though droughts and water scarcity are affecting more and more parts of Europe, an estimated 20-40% of Europe's available water is still being wasted, for instance, through leakages in the distribution system. According to available modelling, there is still considerable scope for improving water efficiency in the EU. Moreover, rising demand and the impacts of climate change are expected to increase the pressure on Europe's water resources significantly. Against this background, the Union and Member States should take action to ensure water abstraction respects available renewable water resource limits by 2020, including by improving water efficiency through the use of market mechanisms such as water pricing that reflects the true value of water. Progress will be facilitated by accelerated demonstration and rolling out of innovative technologies, systems and business models building on the Strategic Implementation Plan of the European Innovation Partnership on Water.

Amendment

39. Resource efficiency in the water sector will also be tackled as a priority to help deliver good water status. Even though droughts and water scarcity are affecting more and more parts of Europe, an estimated 20-40% of Europe's available water is still being wasted, for instance, through leakages in the distribution system. According to available modelling, there is still considerable scope for improving water efficiency in the EU. Moreover, rising demand and the impacts of climate change are expected to increase the pressure on Europe's water resources significantly. Against this background, the Union and Member States should take action to ensure water abstraction respects available renewable water resource limits by 2020, including by improving water efficiency through the use of market mechanisms such as water pricing that reflects the true value of water. Progress will be facilitated by accelerated demonstration and rolling out of innovative technologies, systems and business models building on the Strategic Implementation Plan of the European Innovation Partnership on Water *and the European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability provided for under the proposals for reform of the second pillar of the CAP.*

Amendment 24

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 41 – subparagraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) Giving impetus to the public and private research and innovation efforts required for rolling out innovative technologies, systems and business models which will speed up and lower the cost of transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy.

Amendment

(c) Giving impetus to the public and private research and innovation efforts required for rolling out innovative technologies, systems and business models which will speed up and lower the cost of transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy ***and which will help the reduction of food waste within the food chain by 50 % by 2025.***

Amendment 25

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 50

Text proposed by the Commission

50. Climate change will further aggravate environment problems by causing prolonged droughts and heat waves, floods, storms and forest fires, and new or more virulent forms of human, animal or plant disease. Dedicated action should be taken to ensure that the EU is adequately prepared to face the pressures and changes resulting from climate change, strengthening its environmental, economic and societal resilience. Since many sectors are and will be increasingly subject to climate change impacts, adaptation and disaster risk management considerations need to be further integrated into EU policies.

Amendment

50. Climate change will further aggravate environment problems by causing prolonged droughts and heat waves, floods, storms and forest fires, and new or more virulent forms of human, animal or plant disease. Dedicated action should be taken to ensure that the EU is adequately prepared to face the pressures and changes resulting from climate change, strengthening its environmental, economic and societal resilience. Since many sectors are and will be increasingly subject to climate change impacts, adaptation and disaster risk management considerations need to be further integrated into EU policies. ***At the same time it is important to provide businesses in the most affected sectors, such as farmers, with more accurate information on the climate risks resulting from bad practices, in addition***

to workable adaptation solutions.

Amendment 26
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 62

Text proposed by the Commission

62. In addition to helping Member States improve compliance, the Commission will continue to do its part to ensure that legislation is fit for purpose and reflects the latest science. As a general rule, legal obligations which are sufficiently clear and precise will be enshrined in Regulations, which have direct and measurable effects and lead to fewer inconsistencies in implementation. The Commission will step up its use of scoreboards and other means of publicly tracking Member States' progress in implementing specific pieces of legislation.

Amendment

62. In addition to helping Member States improve compliance, the Commission will continue to do its part to ensure that legislation is ***proportionate***, fit for purpose and reflects the latest science. As a general rule, legal obligations which are sufficiently clear and precise will be enshrined in Regulations, which have direct and measurable effects and lead to fewer inconsistencies in implementation. The Commission will step up its use of ***communication***, scoreboards and other means of publicly tracking Member States' progress in implementing specific pieces of legislation ***and of ensuring that the public is informed about positive trends in environmental protection.***

Amendment 27
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 63 – subparagraph 2 – point e a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ea) Cooperative strategies are developed among the various protagonists in environmental protection and nature conservation and more ample communication concerning tried and tested practices is developed.

Amendment 28
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 63 – subparagraph 2 – point e b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(eb) Regular assessments of existing law are performed, to ensure that environmental legislation measures are proportionate, feasible and well targeted.

Amendment 29
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 71 – subparagraph 2 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) Communication and dissemination of positive developments and trends in environmental protection take place.

Amendment 30
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 75

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

75. The private sector should also be encouraged to take up opportunities offered under the new EU financial framework to step up their involvement in efforts to achieve environmental and climate objectives, especially in relation to eco-innovation activities and the uptake of new technologies, with a particular focus on SMEs. Public-private initiatives for eco-innovation should be promoted under European Innovation Partnerships, such as the Innovation Partnership on Water. Through the new framework for Innovative Financial Instruments, private sector access to finance for investments in environment – notably biodiversity and climate change – should be facilitated. European enterprises should be further encouraged to disclose environmental information as part of their financial reporting, beyond the

75. The private sector should also be encouraged to take up opportunities offered under the new EU financial framework to step up their involvement in efforts to achieve environmental and climate objectives, especially in relation to eco-innovation activities and the uptake of new technologies, with a particular focus on SMEs. Public-private initiatives for eco-innovation should be promoted under European Innovation Partnerships, such as the Innovation Partnership on Water ***and the European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability provided for under the CAP reform proposals.*** Through the new framework for Innovative Financial Instruments, private sector access to finance for investments in environment – notably biodiversity, climate change ***and***

extent required under existing EU legislation.

soil protection – should be facilitated. European enterprises should be further encouraged to disclose environmental information as part of their financial reporting, beyond the extent required under existing EU legislation.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 82 – subparagraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) ***Progressively phasing out environmentally harmful*** subsidies, increasing the use of market-based instruments, including taxation, pricing and charging, and expanding markets for environmental goods and services, with due regard to any adverse social impacts.

Amendment

(a) ***A better link between the agricultural subsidies and public goods delivery***, increasing the use of market-based instruments, including taxation, pricing and charging, and expanding markets for environmental goods and services, with due regard to any adverse social impacts.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 82 – subparagraph 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) Developing and applying a system for reporting and tracking environment-related expenditure in the EU budget, notably on climate change and biodiversity, by 2014.

Amendment

(e) Developing and applying a system for ***assessing***, reporting and tracking environment-related expenditure in the EU budget, notably on climate change and biodiversity, by 2014.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 83

Text proposed by the Commission

83. Although integrating environmental protection concerns into other EU policies and activities has been a Treaty requirement since 1997, the overall state of Europe's environment indicates that progress to date, while commendable in some areas, has not been sufficient to reverse all negative trends. Achieving many of the priority objectives of this programme will demand even more effective integration of environmental and climate considerations into other policies, as well as more coherent, joined-up policy approaches that deliver multiple benefits. This should help ensure that difficult trade-offs are managed early on, rather than in the implementation phase, and that unavoidable impacts can be mitigated more effectively. The Strategic Environmental Assessment directive and Environmental Impact Assessment directive, when correctly applied, are effective tools for ensuring environmental protection requirements are integrated in plans and programmes as well as in projects. Local and regional authorities, which are generally responsible for decisions on use of land and marine areas, have a particularly important role to play in assessing environmental impacts and protecting, conserving and enhancing natural capital, also to achieve greater resilience to climate change impacts and natural disasters.

Amendment 34
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 85

Text proposed by the Commission

85. This programme includes a number of priority objectives designed to enhance

Amendment

83. Although integrating environmental protection concerns into other EU policies and activities has been a Treaty requirement since 1997, the overall state of Europe's environment indicates that progress to date, while commendable in some areas, has not been sufficient to reverse all negative trends. Achieving many of the priority objectives of this programme will demand even more effective integration of environmental and climate considerations into other policies, as well as more coherent, joined-up **systemic** policy approaches that deliver multiple benefits. This should help ensure that difficult trade-offs are managed early on, rather than in the implementation phase, and that unavoidable impacts can be mitigated more effectively. The Strategic Environmental Assessment directive and Environmental Impact Assessment directive, when correctly applied, are effective tools for ensuring environmental protection requirements are integrated in plans and programmes as well as in projects. Local and regional authorities, which are generally responsible for decisions on use of land and marine areas, have a particularly important role to play in assessing environmental impacts and protecting, conserving and enhancing natural capital, also to achieve greater resilience to climate change impacts and natural disasters.

Amendment

85. This programme includes a number of priority objectives designed to **further**

integration. In its proposals for the CAP, CFP, Trans-European Networks (TENs) and Cohesion policy reforms, the Commission has included measures to further support environmental integration and sustainability. For this programme to succeed, these policies should further contribute towards meeting environment-related targets and objectives. Similarly, efforts primarily intended to achieve environmental improvements should be designed to deliver co-benefits for other policies wherever possible. For instance, efforts to restore ecosystems can be targeted to benefit habitats and species and to sequester carbon dioxide, while improving the delivery of ecosystem services vital for many economic sectors, such as pollination or water purification for agriculture, and creating green jobs.

enhance integration. In its proposals for the CAP, CFP, Trans-European Networks (TENs) and Cohesion policy reforms, the Commission has included measures to further support environmental integration and sustainability. For this programme to succeed, these policies should **even** further contribute towards meeting environment-related targets and objectives. Similarly, efforts primarily intended to achieve environmental improvements should be designed to deliver co-benefits for other policies wherever possible. For instance, efforts to restore ecosystems can be targeted to benefit habitats and species and to sequester carbon dioxide, while improving the delivery of ecosystem services vital for many economic sectors, such as pollination or water purification for agriculture, and creating green jobs.

Amendment 35

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 86 – subparagraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) integrating environmental and climate-related conditionalities and incentives in policy initiatives, including reviews and reforms of existing policy, as well as new initiatives, at EU and Member State level;

Amendment

(a) **further** integrating environmental and climate-related conditionalities and incentives in policy initiatives, including reviews and reforms of existing policy, as well as new initiatives, at EU and Member State level;

Amendment 36

Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 87

Text proposed by the Commission

87. The EU is densely populated and by 2020, 80% of the EU population is likely to live in urban and peri-urban areas. Quality of life will be directly influenced by the

Amendment

87. The EU is densely populated and by 2020, 80% of the EU population is likely to live in urban and peri-urban areas. Quality of life will be directly influenced by the

state of the urban environment. The environmental impacts of cities also spread well beyond their physical limits, as they rely heavily on peri-urban and rural regions to meet demand for food, energy, space and resources, and to accommodate waste.

state of the urban environment. The environmental impacts of cities also spread well beyond their physical limits, as they rely heavily on peri-urban and rural regions to meet demand for food, energy, space and resources, and to accommodate waste.

Special attention should therefore be devoted to promoting rural areas and creating new jobs in the rural sector.

Amendment 37
Proposal for a decision

Annex – paragraph 89 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

89a. The Union's food security policy should be based on sustainable agriculture and fair trade. Climate change is bringing pressure to bear on natural resources, particularly as sufficient quantities of food need to be provided for a growing world population with altered patterns of consumption. Imports of protein from third countries where the standard of environmental protection is inadequate could be reduced by promoting the cultivation of protein crops in the Union. In addition, the Union has an obligation to demand, bilaterally and multilaterally, adequate regulatory environmental protection measures in the regions concerned, from which such risks emanate.

PROCEDURE

Title	General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020: 'Living well, within the limits of our planet'						
References	COM(2012)0710 – C7-0392/2012 – 2012/0337(COD)						
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	ENVI 10.12.2012						
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	AGRI 10.12.2012						
Rapporteur Date appointed	Daciana Octavia Sârbu 6.2.2013						
Discussed in committee	4.3.2013						
Date adopted	25.3.2013						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>32</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	+:	32	–:	0	0:	4
+:	32						
–:	0						
0:	4						
Members present for the final vote	Eric Andrieu, José Bové, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Michel Dantin, Paolo De Castro, Albert Deß, Herbert Dorfmann, Hynek Fajmon, Mariya Gabriel, Iratxe García Pérez, Julie Girling, Martin Häusling, Peter Jahr, Elisabeth Jeggle, Jarosław Kalinowski, Elisabeth Köstinger, George Lyon, Rareş-Lucian Niculescu, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Marit Paulsen, Britta Reimers, Ulrike Rodust, Alfreds Rubiks, Giancarlo Scottà, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Marc Tarabella, Janusz Wojciechowski						
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Spyros Danellis, Jean-Paul Gauzès, Christa Kläß, Astrid Lulling, Jacek Włosowicz, Milan Zver						