

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2005/2049(INI)

05.9.2005

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

on Winning the battle against global climate change
(2005/2049(INI))

Draftsman: Paul Vergès

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Is aware that climate change is taking place and that it is caused by human activity; there is therefore a need to adapt to the increasing global average temperature; stresses, however, the need for more powerful measures to reduce the effects of climate change;
2. Draws attention to the fact that the combination and mutually-reinforcing nature of climate change, demographic evolution and globalisation signal an unprecedented period of instability in the history of humanity; this underlines the need to reduce the cleavage between the developing world and the rest of the globe and to eradicate poverty;
3. Stresses that cooperation with the developing countries in combatting climate change must take as its starting-point the fight against poverty;
4. Recognises that developing countries are most severely affected by climate change, and their economies are often dependent on a small number of activities which may be disproportionately impacted by climate change; this is particularly the case for small island states; recognises further that mitigation and adaptation to climate change in developing countries should be a priority in EU development policy; calls on the Commission and Member States to explain how they are meeting this objective, as well as meeting their financial commitments to the political declaration made in Bonn in July 2001, by increasing their cooperation on climate change with developing countries in terms of a budget of US\$ 410 million as of 2005;
5. Welcomes the outcome of the G8 summit at Gleneagles and the efforts planned by the British EU Presidency in the fight against global climate change; calls, however, for further measures to be taken in efforts to combat climate change;
6. Recommends that the EU develop a specific climate change cooperation policy for developing countries; notes that the integration of climate change considerations into wider development policies requires the development and installation of a number of tools. Priorities in this field are agriculture and food security, two areas which are most sensitive to climate; believes further that another key concern is economic diversification, acknowledging that many developing countries in AOSIS are highly dependent on tourism; transport, social planning and energy issues are crucial in counteracting climate change; notes that other priorities would be disaster prevention and preparedness;
7. Backs international cooperation and the involvement of developing countries in addressing climate change; asks, however, for appropriate implementation of technology cooperation, development of renewable energy, water and disaster facility programmes, as well as for the transfer of sufficient financial aid on the part of the EU; recommends regular consultation of the ACP-EU JPA and calls for its active

participation in the drawing-up of such proposals;

8. Recommends looking into the problem of non-participation in climate change mitigation actions;
9. Considers it important that the EU stress the costs which will be incurred if we do not act to reduce emissions with an impact on the climate, since an understanding of these costs may enhance the motivation to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases;
10. Stresses the importance of addressing the issue of climate observation, its vulnerability and impact, as it is the reason for action against climate change and there is a lack of such observation in most developing countries; observes that there is likewise a lack of meteorological observations and that the implementation of adaptation cannot be properly achieved without adequate data sets on hazards, vulnerability and impacts; welcomes the 'European capacity for Global Monitoring of Environment and Safety' (GMES) initiative of the Commission and the European Space Agency as of 2008 to support the Union's political goals regarding sustainable development and political governance; recommends that cooperation in this field in general should be integrated into international initiatives such as GCOS and GEOSS;
11. Welcomes the creation of the Environmental Information System for Environment and Sustainable Development for Africa of the Commission, based on satellite and computer-mapping technologies, helping the development activities of the ECHO office; recommends that a possible development and extension of the Commission structure to include a climate change observation network should be investigated;
12. Considers that sustainable development must be an integral part of the EU's development work; calls on the Commission to contribute to capacity building in the EU, the UN, the donor countries and the recipient countries, in such a way that the integration of sustainable development can operate effectively; efforts should be made principally in skills development, education and exchange of experience;
13. Stresses that the international trade patterns have a major impact on climate change; calls, therefore, on the WTO to incorporate a sustainable development mechanism into its work;
14. Stresses that preparation for natural disasters linked to existing climate variability and to potential future climate change needs to be drastically improved in many developing countries, such as those of the ACP, as has been shown with the dramatic consequences of hurricane Jeanne on 19 September 2003; considers that actions are necessary not only in the field of meteorological observation, but also concerning reaction times of local authorities and the education of the population;
15. Recommends adopting conflict prevention and disaster reduction strategies with a special regard to developing countries to reduce political destabilisation, as the consequence of a changing climate/ecosystem, including special support for governance and capacity-building in Africa;
16. Stresses that the Commission should seek the active participation of developing countries through its communication strategy on climate change, as well as take

initiatives in the dissemination of information using ACP-EU channels; it is also important to take account of the European ultra-peripheral regions which neighbour many ACP countries and often have similar sustainable development issues to face;

17. Stresses that the vital role of IPCC, which is at the basis of the scientific consensus on climate change, is not sufficiently acknowledged in the Communication and that participation of developing countries in its work and in the research efforts in general, should also be highlighted;
18. Emphasises that, with regard to developing countries' participation in the future climate regime, the EU should clearly recognise that the priority for these countries is development; however, the MDG's will never be met if environment issues, like climate change, are not properly addressed; sustainable development and combatting poverty should remain the general framework within which developing countries would be encouraged to adopt policies and measures integrating climate change concerns, whether for adaptation or mitigation; notes that in this respect, development objectives should take into account two conditions:
 - a) they should not result in a further deterioration of the quality of life of local populations, and should reflect the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals; believes that for this purpose, developing countries must define and apply adaptation policies wherever relevant, but they should also, in terms of mitigation, avoid the deadlocks in which the so-called developed countries are already caught, for instance in the fields of road and air transportation; considers that developing countries have an historic opportunity of which they should take advantage, and investment choices over the coming decades will be crucial to the transition to a low-carbon emission future;
 - b) developing countries should also contribute, within their capacities and without slowing their development, to the general mitigation effort; notes that there would be an additional advantage for most developing countries, which are presently highly dependent on oil and therefore face very high energy costs: any reduction of energy consumption and increased use of alternative energy sources would therefore be highly beneficial; points out that the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol has the potential to contribute to this goal, and ways to develop it beyond the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol should be explored, especially by exploring ways of decreasing costs and increasing the efficiency of the process required to get CDM projects approved; notes that its successful launch requires greater financial support from European countries to overcome its current funding problems; however, it is important that the Clean Development Mechanism should be evaluated in such a way that it achieves the desired result and does not merely permit businesses to evade their responsibilities for improving energy efficiency;
19. Backs, therefore, the creation of a new coherent political solution to improve the welfare of already vulnerable populations through a global strategy for development

with appropriate economic support; recommends that this new strategy should be based on the link between climate change, natural resource management, disaster prevention and poverty eradication;

PROCEDURE ⁽¹⁾

Title	Winning the battle against global climate change
Procedure number	2004/2049(INI)
Committee responsible	ENVI
Committee asked for its opinion Date announced in plenary	DEVE 12.5.2005
Enhanced cooperation	No
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Paul Vergès 24.5.2005
Discussed in committee	14.7.2005
Date suggestions adopted	30.8.2005
Result of final vote	for: 32 against: 0 abstentions: 0
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Margrietus van den Berg, Danutė Budreikaitė, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Thierry Cornillet, Nirj Deva, Alexandra Dobolyi, Fernando Fernández Martín, Michael Gahler, Filip Andrzej Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, Maria Martens, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Luisa Morgantini, José Javier Pomés Ruiz, Toomas Savi, Pierre Schapira, Jürgen Schröder, Feleknaš Uca, Paul Vergès, Anna Záborská, Mauro Zani
Substitutes present for the final vote	Marie-Hélène Aubert, John Bowis, Manolis Mavrommatis, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Carl Schlyter, Åsa Westlund, Jürgen Zimmerling