



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2013/2135(INI)

18.12.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the
Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies
(2013/2135(INI))

Rapporteur: David Casa

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committees responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into their motion for a resolution:

1. Supports the Commission's initiative suggesting an early and ambitious agreement on the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, with particular attention to its objectives of progressing towards a competitive and less resource-intensive economy which can create new opportunities for quality jobs and sustainable growth, and preventing further climate change;
2. Notes that job creation in eco-industries was positive during the recession in comparison to many other sectors¹;
3. Notes that wage shares in the low carbon-intensive sector have tended to fall less than in the top 15 emitting industries, especially in recent years²;
4. Calls for measures to be taken in order to allocate economic recovery plan resources to green quality jobs and sustainable growth; underlines the need to support, in particular, small and medium-sized enterprises to create green quality jobs for highly and less qualified workers;
5. Stresses the need to provide a platform for the Member States to coordinate their efforts in creating new high-quality green jobs and sustainable growth; underlines the need to support close cooperation between governments and social partners in order to ensure a smooth transition towards a greener economy;
6. Calls for a balanced approach towards potential new climate and energy targets, taking into account the negative effects on the industrial base and employment in the Union;
7. Underlines the need to eliminate in the mid-term all direct and indirect subsidies, tax advantages and financial support for environmentally non-sustainable activities;
8. Stresses that social dialogue and the participation of workers are fundamental values and tools which underpin and reconcile the promotion of social cohesion, quality employment and job creation on the one hand and increased innovation and competitiveness in European economies on the other hand;
9. Recalls that energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors could create a substantial amount of new jobs by 2020, as forecast by the Commission; points out that the transition to a less resource-intensive economy is expected to have very diverse effects in terms of the overall levels of skills required; recalls that the potential for green jobs lies not only in

¹ Commission Staff Working Document entitled 'Exploiting the employment potential of green growth' (SWD(2012)092).

² Commission-International Labour Organisation joint publication entitled 'Towards a greener economy: The social dimensions' p. 48.

new high-skilled sectors, but throughout the economy and at all skill levels;

10. Notes that the EUR 573 billion used to import fossil fuels in 2011¹, represents untapped potential for growth and job creation in the EU's green sector;
11. Calls for measures to be taken to anticipate, meet and match the skills set needed for newly created jobs, to make adjustments in education and training systems and to meet new challenges in those existing jobs the profiles of which turn towards those of greener jobs; stresses that active labour market policies have to be targeted and designed to meet the needs of worker and labour demand, in order to avoid the lack of a qualified labour force in emerging sustainable technologies and to provide young people, women and disadvantaged groups with access to sustainable quality jobs in the green economy;
12. Recalls the Commission's intention to reverse the declining role of industry in Europe for the 21st century¹; calls for a coherent approach in the climate and energy policy field which does not undermine industry policy goals and which could thereby impede job creation;
13. Calls for measures to prevent job losses in the most affected high-carbon sectors, such as electricity production, transport, construction and energy-intensive industries, which are in general the greenest and most energy-efficient in the world; calls, for the facilitation of the transfer of workers from affected high-carbon sectors to other sectors in the case of job losses in those sectors;
14. Underlines the need for income support measures, accompanied by other measures such as training, in order to improve and maintain employability, keep workers in the labour market and prevent skills erosion in times of crisis and restructuring;
15. Stresses the need to address in the new framework the consequences of increasing energy prices and the economic crisis, as regards the affordability of energy and the fair sharing of financial burdens for final consumers – households and businesses; calls, in particular, for measures which could prevent job losses in negatively affected European industries with a high energy consumption, which are amongst the cleanest in the world in their sector; recognises that an ambitious cost-efficient energy savings target can lower energy bills for both households and businesses; highlights the fact that the implementation of Directive 2010/31/EU of 19 May 2010 on the energy performance of buildings could generate new employment in retrofitting existing buildings to ensure ongoing benefits; urges the Member States to use available EU funding for such purposes;
16. Supports the idea of enhancing access to finance for investments in Member States with less economic capacity in order to provide sufficient support for changes in industrial processes and energy use that could have a positive impact on jobs;
17. Highlights the need to stimulate research on more sustainable resource extraction and on innovative technologies in order to better protect the environment and improve working

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/hedegaard/headlines/news/2012-06-14_01_en.htm

¹ Commission communication of 10 October 2012 entitled 'A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery' (COM(2012)0582).

conditions of employees in the sector; calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote more sustainable solutions for resource extraction.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	17.12.2013
Result of final vote	+: 39 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Regina Bastos, Edit Bauer, Heinz K. Becker, Jean-Luc Bennahmias, Phil Bennion, Pervenche Berès, Milan Cabrnoch, David Casa, Alejandro Cercas, Ole Christensen, Minodora Cliveti, Andrea Cozzolino, Frédéric Daerden, Karima Delli, Sari Essayah, Marian Harkin, Stephen Hughes, Danuta Jazłowiecka, Ádám Kósa, Jean Lambert, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Olle Ludvigsson, Csaba Őry, Siiri Oviir, Konstantinos Poupakis, Elisabeth Schroedter, Traian Ungureanu, Inês Cristina Zuber
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Claudette Abela Baldacchino, Jürgen Creutzmann, Philippe De Backer, Edite Estrela, Richard Howitt, Martin Kastler, Anthea McIntyre, Evelyn Regner, Csaba Sógor, Tatjana Ždanoka
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Vojtěch Mynář