



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2010/2211(INI)

27.1.2011

OPINION

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

for the Special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013

on policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013
(2010/2211(INI))

Rapporteur: Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Emphasises that a future sustainable economy is not just a moral objective, but as much an economic necessity; believes that the EU should lead this transformation and promote a transition to a sustainable low-carbon society through reduced energy consumption, the decentralisation of energy supply, increased use of renewable energy and ensuring ecosystem resilience to keep European industry competitive and to ensure a clean and healthy living environment;
2. Recalls that the next financial perspectives should achieve the EU 2020 Strategy objectives, especially the 20/20/20 climate and energy objectives, including a rise to 30% of the target for emission reductions, and meet the 'Resource Efficient Europe' flagship initiative goals;
3. Reiterates the importance of transforming the EU economy into a resource-efficient economy; considers therefore that the EU should use its budget to drive reductions in the use of resources and dependency on imports, while increasing recycling and restoration in the fields of waste, water, materials and land;
4. Emphasises the need to strengthen integration of EU environmental, public health and climate legislation and objectives into sectoral policies (including the CAP, cohesion policy, consumer policy, the CFP and development policy); suggests, therefore, mainstreaming EU finances to ensure compliance with EU environmental and public health legislation and the active contribution of spending through the EU budget to its environmental policy objectives and, as suggested by the Commission's budget review, include an obligation to identify in a transparent manner where sectoral programmes have promoted climate objectives specified in the Europe 2020 Strategy; underlines the importance of future research and innovation programmes in delivering the EU's objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
5. Is convinced that the EU budget should support the provision of public goods that are unlikely to be sufficiently delivered by the market; environmental public goods include the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, wilderness, climate stability and carbon absorption capacity, water provision and quality, air and soil quality, resilience to fire and floods, as well as the maintenance of valued cultural and historic landscapes; believes, therefore, that the Common Agricultural Policy should reward farmers and land managers for the delivery of public goods, such as an attractive countryside rich in biodiversity, and that the Structural and Cohesion Funds should foster ecological sustainable development and the transition to a low energy-consumption and resource-efficient society;
6. Calls for any structural and cohesion policy instruments for the new financing period to be geared to achieving cost-efficient greenhouse gas reductions in line with a higher emissions reduction target for 2020 in accordance with the 2°C objective;

7. Stresses the need to extend national and European accounts to environmental issues in order to facilitate a green transformation of the European economy which will lead to long-term economic growth and prosperity, as stated, amongst others, by the European Environment Agency in the European Environment State and Outlook Report 2010;
8. Is convinced that only a coherent EU budget can truly deliver the maximum results; reiterates that more coherent budgetary policy means coherence must exist not only between different policies but also between national budgets and the EU budget;
9. Emphasises that EU spending must be more clearly targeted and concentrate on projects that deliver most public benefit at European level and that support major European goals, such as the transition towards a low-carbon economy and coherent support to clean green growth;
10. Is concerned about the financial and policy implications of environmentally harmful subsidies; considers that European funding should not have negative impacts on the environment, climate change, ecosystems and biodiversity within and outside the EU; calls on the Commission thus to identify and for the EU subsequently to phase out all environmentally harmful subsidies as soon as possible, at the latest by 2020, in line with the commitment undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya and for the whole budget to be climate and biodiversity proofed; eliminating these harmful subsidies will free up funds which will be used, for example, for green job creation; also requests that European payments be assessed, prior to implementation, to ensure that they do not produce negative effects or undermine European climate, energy, biodiversity and resource objectives;
11. Is thus convinced that all EU funding must be climate and environment proofed prior to implementation so as to ensure that there are no negative effects for European environmental, climate, biodiversity or resource use objectives; reiterates that this must be followed up with adequate monitoring to ensure that targets set were achieved and that the requirements were complied with and actively to promote the achievement of climate, energy and biodiversity objectives for 2020;
12. Is concerned about the lack of transparency in EU spending and is convinced that an open, transparent information process for all citizens will strengthen the future of the community and that the EU budget should therefore provide full, timely and accessible disclosure of its spending;
13. Reiterates the importance of reaching EU climate and biodiversity targets and urges the EU to ensure that these targets are reflected in all other policies; calls upon the EU to commit to sufficient funding on a structural basis to reach these targets and to further enhance the capacity of developing countries to mainstream environment and climate mitigation and adaptation across sectors and economic development plans;
14. Calls for the EU budget to commit sufficient funding on a structural basis to reach its key environmental targets and to earmark money within the different EU funds for eco-friendly sectors, such as energy saving, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and public transport, which contribute to a stronger and more resilient EU economy;

15. Remains of the opinion that, in order to achieve EU and global biodiversity objectives, cofinancing for the management of Natura 2000 needs to be guaranteed from a dedicated source in the new EU budgetary framework; points out that, according to the TEEB report (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity), the return on biodiversity conservation investment is up to a hundred times more;
16. Emphasises the need to secure long-term financial provision in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for public health priorities, health promotion and disease prevention, notably through a strategic and more efficiently managed follow-up action programme to the existing EU Public Health Programme;
17. Recognises the positive impact of investments in health infrastructure on structural reforms in the health sector and underlines the need to maintain and strengthen structural funds dedicated to health infrastructures, thus supporting adaptation and innovation of health systems for growth and sustainability;
18. Calls for the next MFF to ensure appropriate training, research and Agency financing to further the EU's integrated approach to food safety and thus secure over the long term a high level of food safety and animal health and welfare across the EU;
19. Calls for education and lifelong learning to be regarded as key factors in improving public health;
20. Underlines the importance of the LIFE+ programme as the main EU instrument entirely dedicated to environmental financing and underlines the need to strengthen LIFE+ in the future MFF to achieve EU environmental objectives while promoting synergies with other EU financial instruments;
21. Emphasises that the European Court of Auditors and the competent national authorities must assess not only the legality but also the effectiveness of European expenditure, and the degree to which the measures concerned contribute to the achievement of environmental objectives;
22. Calls on the Commission to further develop and regularly present to Parliament the key qualitative and quantitative performance indicators for budget implementation within the next MFF, which are additional to RAL and RAC;
23. Urges the Commission to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the next financing instruments by better monitoring and reporting on qualitative performance indicators;
24. Calls on the Commission to present annual policy objectives to be achieved within the next MFF, which can better monitor the achievement of the results by the end of the MFF period.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	25.1.2011
Result of final vote	+: 55 -: 2 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	János Áder, Kriton Arsenis, Pilar Ayuso, Paolo Bartolozzi, Sandrine Bélier, Sergio Berlato, Martin Callanan, Nessa Childers, Chris Davies, Bairbre de Brún, Bas Eickhout, Edite Estrela, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Julie Girling, Nick Griffin, Satu Hassi, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Dan Jørgensen, Karin Kadenbach, Christa Kläß, Jo Leinen, Peter Liese, Kartika Tamara Liotard, Linda McAvan, Radvilė Morkūnaitė-Mikulėnienė, Gilles Pargneaux, Antonyia Parvanova, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Mario Pirillo, Pavel Poc, Vittorio Prodi, Oreste Rossi, Horst Schnellhardt, Richard Seeber, Bogusław Sonik, Catherine Soullie, Salvatore Tatarella, Marina Yannakoudakis
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Tadeusz Cymański, José Manuel Fernandes, Jacqueline Foster, Gaston Franco, Matthias Groote, Jutta Haug, Marisa Matias, Judith A. Merkies, Miroslav Mikolášik, Renate Sommer, Eleni Theoharous, Michail Tremopoulos, Thomas Ulmer, Marita Ulvskog, Vladimir Urutchev, Adina-Ioana Vălean
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Andres Perello Rodriguez