



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Petitions

2012/2104(INI)

5.12.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Petitions

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

on improving the delivery of benefits from EU environment measures: building confidence through better knowledge and responsiveness
(2012/2104(INI))

Rapporteur: Giles Chichester

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Petitions 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. Notes the frequent concerns of petitioners in several areas of environmental policy, such as landfill and waste disposal, wildlife habitats and air and water quality; applauds their efforts to bring authority to account, and calls on the Member States to be open and cooperative with them;
2. Urges the Member States to take all measures required to safeguard the environment and encourage sustainable development, while bearing in mind the need for a healthy and competitive economy; emphasises that local communities must have a strong say in deciding the best balance between the needs of people and the needs of their environment;
3. Believes that, since citizens and residents of Member States are best placed to judge the most appropriate priorities for their local neighbourhoods, the subsidiarity principle should be applied to environmental issues wherever possible;
4. Acknowledges that the ‘gold-plating’ of EU environmental legislation can have a perverse effect in terms of reducing the acceptance of such legislation; calls on the Member States, if they wish to go further than required by EU directives, to determine whether there is a clear need to do so;
5. Stresses the overwhelming need to develop new clean energy production capacities in the EU and to invest in technology which can provide alternative ways of producing energy; recognises that this cannot be done without some impact on the environment, and therefore urges the EU and the Member States to tackle adverse environmental effects and to restore used areas to their former condition once a project has been finished;
6. Considers that high standards of information and transparency concerning environmental legislation and the application of EU rules are essential to ensure that EU environmental policy is better understood by citizens, meets with their consent and cooperation, and is compatible with the policies of local government; calls on the Commission, the Member States and the regions concerned to improve the flow of information and transparency through a more active and frequent exchange among themselves;
7. With regard to projects with a possible cross-border environmental impact, calls on the Member States to inform comprehensively the public and authorities affected in the Member States concerned as soon as possible and to take the measures necessary to ensure that they are appropriately consulted;
8. Applauds the introduction of environmental impact assessments and calls on the Member States to ensure that the relevant legislation is implemented more effectively, taking better account of the needs of small and medium-sized businesses, of residents and of flora and fauna; expresses concern at the slowness with which Member States often carry out such assessments and calls, in the context of the future revision of the directive, for guarantees

to be introduced concerning their impartiality and objectivity;

9. Urges the Commission to find ways of better defining and developing the Common Fisheries Policy and the Common Agricultural Policy in accordance with the EU environmental acquis;
10. Urges the Member States to implement EU environmental legislation in the clearest, simplest and most user-friendly way while ensuring its efficiency.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	3.12.2012
Result of final vote	+: 13 -: 0 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Victor Boștinaru, Giles Chichester, Carlos José Iturgaiz Angulo, Peter Jahr, Erminia Mazzoni, Judith A. Merkies, Rolandas Paksas, Jarosław Leszek Wałęsa, Angelika Werthmann, Tatjana Ždanoka
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Birgit Collin-Langen, Vicente Miguel Garcés Ramón, Marian Harkin
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Gabriel Mato Adrover