

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Regional Development

2008/0014(COD)

18.7.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional 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 the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to
meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to
2020

(COM(2008)0017 – C6-0041/2008 – 2008/0014(COD))

Draftsman: Antonio De Blasio

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

In 2007 the European Union made a commitment that it would, by the year 2020, reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20% in relation to the year 1990 level.

Since this objective fundamentally affects the economic and social cohesion of individual regions, it must be stressed that an energy-efficient European economy with low greenhouse gas emissions can only be achieved if it is integrated into cohesion policy. These two target areas must be linked together, and it is recommended that aspects of reducing greenhouse gas emissions be incorporated into the system of conditions of the funds earmarked for cohesion and structural development.

As a consequence of the economic differences between individual regions, reducing greenhouse gas emissions could represent a considerable burden to regions lagging behind. Such regions should therefore receive special funding in order that meeting the EU's objectives should not cause them to suffer unreasonably high losses.

Although the European Union obliges governments of the Member States to undertake this commitment, there is a considerable burden on their local and regional governments and other local and regional advocacy forums and organisations. The ambitious objective can only be achieved if, during harmonisation and completion of the tasks, there is continuous vertical cooperation between central government and local/regional organisations and continuous horizontal cooperation between individual local/regional organisations.

However, since a large proportion of greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to private sector market players and individual consumers, the involvement of individual industrial emitters and households in implementing the programme is vital at both Member State and regional level. The interest of market players in increasing energy production from renewable sources must be aroused by economic means, thereby contributing significantly to meeting the commitments of Member States.

Greenhouse gas emissions have decreased significantly in a number of Member States since 1990; however, by making 2005 the base year in its proposal, the Commission takes no account of the efforts made so far. The results already achieved by individual Member States must be acknowledged; therefore, it is suggested that the year 1990 be used as the basis for comparison.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Regional 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 – amending act Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) Member State reduction efforts should be based on the principle of solidarity between Member States and the need for sustainable economic growth across the Community, taking into account the relative per capita GDP of Member States. Member States that currently have a relatively low per capita GDP and thus high GDP growth expectations should be allowed to increase their greenhouse emissions compared to **2005**, but should limit this greenhouse emissions growth to contribute to the overall reduction commitment of the Community. Member States that currently have a relatively high per capita GDP should reduce their greenhouse emissions compared to **2005**.

Amendment

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Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision – amending act Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) To further ensure a fair distribution of efforts between the Member States of the contribution to the implementation of the independent commitment of the Community, no Member State should be required to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 to more than 20% below **2005** levels and no Member State should be allowed to increase its greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 to more than 20% above **2005** levels. Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions should take place between 2013 and 2020, with each Member State being allowed to carry forward from the following year a quantity equal to 2% of

Amendment

(8) To further ensure a fair distribution of efforts between the Member States of the contribution to the implementation of the independent commitment of the Community, no Member State should be required to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 to more than 20% below **1990** levels and no Member State should be allowed to increase its greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 to more than 20% above **1990** levels. Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions should take place between 2013 and 2020, with each Member State being allowed to carry forward from the following year a quantity equal to 2% of

the greenhouse gas emission limit of that Member State and a Member State whose emissions are below that limit being allowed to carry over its excess emission reductions to the subsequent year.

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Amendment 3

Proposal for a decision Recital 8 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(8a) The greenhouse gas emissions from sectors not covered by Directive 2003/87/EC should continue to decrease annually in linear fashion after 2020, leading to a reduction in such emissions of 80% compared to 1990 levels by 2050, with the ultimate objective of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel use within the European Union. The Commission should by 2012 examine the appropriateness of this target in the light of international commitments made by the Community, the latest climate-change scientific knowledge relating to climate sensitivity and the scope for making the greenhouse gas emission reductions needed to avert dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, recognising that local and regional communities make an important contribution to such reductions. The Commission should, if appropriate, present proposals to differentiate the target between Member States.

Justification

The European Council in March 2007 signalled reductions in the order of 60-80 % in industrialised countries are necessary by 2050. In order to make such reductions happen, Member States must have a long term policy in several sectors, e.g. housing, land-use and transport, to avoid further investment into infrastructure which is not compatible with climate protection targets. This is also in line with the ETS proposal which also contains a reduction pathway beyond 2020.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a decision

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Progress in implementing commitments under this Decision should be annually evaluated on the basis of reports submitted under Decision No 280/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 concerning a mechanism for monitoring Community greenhouse gas emissions and for implementing the Kyoto Protocol. Every two years an assessment should be made on the projected progress and a full evaluation of the implementation this Decision should be made in 2016.

Amendment

(15) Progress in implementing commitments under this Decision should be annually evaluated on the basis of reports submitted under Decision No 280/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 concerning a mechanism for monitoring Community greenhouse gas emissions and for implementing the Kyoto Protocol. Every two years an assessment should be made on the projected progress and a full evaluation of the implementation this Decision should be made in 2016. ***As part of that assessment the Commission should assess and report on progress made in ensuring that various Community policies (for instance in the field of agriculture, product requirements, structural policies, research) contribute to the greenhouse gas emission reduction effort.***

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision – amending act

Article 1

Text proposed by the Commission

This Decision lays down rules on the determination of the contribution of Member States to meeting the greenhouse

Amendment

This Decision lays down rules on the determination of the contribution of Member States to meeting the greenhouse

gas emission reduction commitment of the Community from 2013 to 2020 **for greenhouse gas emissions from sources not covered under Directive 2003/87/EC**, and for the evaluation thereof.

gas emission reduction commitment of the Community from 2013 to 2020, and for the evaluation thereof.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) Until a future international agreement on climate change has been concluded by the Community leading to emission reductions exceeding those required pursuant to this Article, each Member State shall, by 2020, limit its greenhouse gas emissions **from sources not covered under Directive 2003/87/EC** by the percentage set for that Member State in the Annex to this Decision in relation to its emissions in the year **2005**.

Amendment

(1) Until a future international agreement on climate change has been concluded by the Community leading to emission reductions exceeding those required pursuant to this Article, each Member State shall, by 2020, limit its greenhouse gas emissions by the percentage set for that Member State in the Annex to this Decision in relation to its emissions in the year **1990**.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 3 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) Subject to paragraph 3 and Article 4, each Member State shall ensure that its total greenhouse gas emissions in 2013 **from sources not covered under Directive 2003/87/EC** do not exceed the average **annual greenhouse gas** emissions of that Member State **from those sources** during the years 2008, 2009 and 2010, as reported and verified pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC and Decision 280/2004/EC.

Amendment

(2) Subject to paragraph 3 and Article 4, each Member State shall ensure that its total greenhouse gas emissions in 2013 do not exceed **the upper limit laid down for 2020 for that Member State in the Annex. In determining the linear limits of this, each Member State shall be able to choose between the following two options:**

i) either on the basis of the target values set for that Member State in the Kyoto Protocol, or

ii) on the basis of the average emissions of that Member State during the years 2008, 2009 and 2010, as reported and verified pursuant to Decision 280/2004/EC.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Member States shall, in their annual reports submitted pursuant to Article 3 of Decision 280/2004/EC, report their annual emissions resulting from the implementation of Article 3 and the use of credits in accordance with Article 4.

Amendment

1. Member States shall, in their annual reports submitted pursuant to Article 3 of Decision 280/2004/EC, report their annual emissions resulting from the implementation of Article 3 and the use of credits in accordance with Article 4

These reports shall include the projected emission reductions resulting from the measures planned in all major sectors in order to achieve the 2020 and 2050 targets.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a decision Article 5– paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The evaluation shall also assess the impact of sectoral Community policies on the Community's greenhouse gas emissions and the emission reduction potential of those policies. The Commission shall make proposals, as appropriate, to ensure that such policies contribute adequately to achieving the 2020 and 2050 reduction targets.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5 a

The Commission shall ensure that the Community's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is implemented in harmony with its cohesion policy, taking into account the need to maintain and strengthen the economic and social cohesion of individual Member States and regions.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 5 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5 b

Since the commitment entered into by the Community imposes tasks not only on the central governments of Member States but also on their local and regional governments and on other local and regional advocacy forums and organisations, Member States shall ensure cooperation between their central authorities and local authorities at different levels.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a decision Article 5 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5b

Since increasing electricity generation from renewable energy sources is a particularly important means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Member States shall make energy production from renewable sources economically attractive, thus encouraging market participants, by increasing electricity generation from renewable energy sources, to make a decisive contribution to Member States' compliance with their obligations.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 5 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5 c

In addition to individual Member States, central governments and local and regional organisations and authorities, market actors – together with households and individual consumers – shall be involved in contributing to the implementation of the Community's commitment, irrespective of the level of greenhouse gas emissions which can be attributed to them.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 5 d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5 d

The deadline for implementing commitments is 2020. During the period up to 2020, a number of projects shall be financed from the European Union's

Structural Fund and cohesion fund. The Commission shall seek to reflect the Community's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in cohesion policy and incorporate aspects of reducing greenhouse gas emissions into the system of conditions of the funds earmarked for cohesion and structural development.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 5 f (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5 f

Member States shall ensure funding for the use of new, innovative techniques in order to enable industrial operators to create new jobs, thereby increasing competitiveness and promoting the achievement of the objectives set by the Lisbon Strategy.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 5 g (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5 g

Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism are flexible instruments which help the European Union to meet its commitments; the Commission shall, therefore, increase and not reduce their future application, since Member States – and individual regions within them – have different economic-social and environmental characteristics, and thus the means of achieving the objectives set might differ between Member States and between regions

within them.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 5 h (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5 h

Since it is of crucial importance to the European Union that an international agreement be reached on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the Commission shall, with a view to maintaining economic cohesion, do all it can to ensure there is a new, worldwide agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions when the Kyoto Convention expires.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 5 i (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 5 i

Since the European Union's ambitious commitments represent a considerable burden for regions lagging behind, the Commission shall support these regions to ensure that short-term financial difficulties do not result in serious losses for them as the stated objectives are achieved.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 6 a

Within six months of the signature of the international climate change agreement stipulating a compulsory reduction of emissions beyond what is set out in Article 3 of the Decision, the Commission shall submit a legislative proposal on Member States' contributions to further Community commitments to be adopted on the basis of Article 251 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a decision – amending act Article 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The maximum quantity of emissions under Article 3 of this Decision shall be adjusted in accordance with the quantity of allowances for greenhouse gas emissions issued pursuant to Article 11 of Directive 2003/87/EC that results from a change in the coverage of sources under that Directive following the final approval by the Commission of the national allocation plans for the period 2008 to 2012 pursuant to Directive 2003/87/EC. The Commission shall publish the figures resulting from that adjustment.

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Amendment 21

Proposal for a decision

Annex; title of the first column: Greenhouse gas emissions in Member States, with reference to Article 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Member State greenhouse gas emission limits by 2020 compared to **2005** greenhouse gas emission levels for sources not covered under Directive 2003/87/EC

Amendment

Member State greenhouse gas emission limits by 2020 compared to **1990** greenhouse gas emission levels for sources not covered under Directive 2003/87/EC.
The Commission shall draw up a new table setting out the greenhouse gas emission limits and the quantity of gasses emitted, expressed in tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.

Justification

It would be contrary to the principle of solidarity to adopt a legislative approach which disregards the carbon dioxide emission reductions achieved by the individual Member States between 1990 and 2005. There is no justification for making further excess emissions possible on account of anticipated economic growth, as growth in GDP is not directly proportional to increases in carbon dioxide emissions. By adopting this approach, the European Union would be setting a bad example to developing countries for the planned negotiations on an international agreement.

PROCEDURE

Title	Shared effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
References	COM(2008)0017 – C6-0041/2008 – 2008/0014(COD)
Committee responsible	ENVI
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	REGI 19.2.2008
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Antonio De Blasio 26.3.2008
Discussed in committee	8.4.2008 25.6.2008
Date adopted	16.7.2008
Result of final vote	+: 28 –: 14 0: 5
Members present for the final vote	Emmanouil Angelakas, Stavros Arnaoutakis, Elspeth Attwooll, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Rolf Berend, Jana Bobošíková, Victor Boştinaru, Wolfgang Bulfon, Antonio De Blasio, Petru Filip, Gerardo Galeote, Iratxe García Pérez, Eugenijus Gentvilas, Ambroise Guellec, Zita Gurmai, Marian Harkin, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Rumiana Jeleva, Gisela Kallenbach, Evgeni Kirilov, Constanze Angela Krehl, Florencio Luque Aguilar, Jamila Madeira, Sérgio Marques, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Yiannakis Matsis, Miroslav Mikolášik, James Nicholson, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Jan Olbrycht, Maria Petre, Markus Pieper, Pierre Pribetich, Wojciech Roszkowski, Elisabeth Schroedter, Grażyna Staniszevska, Catherine Stihler, Dimitar Stoyanov, Margie Sudre, Oldřich Vlasák
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Jan Březina, Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Lidia Joanna Geringer de Oedenberg, Zita Pleštinská, Samuli Pohjamo, Miloslav Ransdorf
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Dimitrios Papadimoulis