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Committee on Regional Development

2011/0428(COD)

17.7.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

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

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action
(LIFE)
(COM(2011)0874 – C7-0498/2011 – 2011/0428(COD))

Rapporteur: Patrice Tirolien

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The LIFE programme is the principal instrument for direct funding of the Community's policy to protect the environment and biodiversity and to adapt to climate change.

The Commission's proposal for a multiannual financial framework provides for a new focus on combating climate change, and the budget allocated to this programme, whose aims are at the heart of the EU 2020 Strategy, has thus been revised. A greater focus on environmental policy is essential for the EU to have sustainable growth.

Your rapporteur fully supports the Commission in its aim to promote greater synergies between the LIFE programme and Cohesion Policy funds, particularly by carrying out pilot projects, improving multi-annual programming or introducing integrated projects. Your rapporteur, however, believes certain clarifications need to be made concerning just how effectively the programmes, which continue to diverge widely in terms of the way in which they are governed, have been linked.

In this regard, your rapporteur considers that it would be counterproductive to exclude VAT and staff costs from the scope of project financing. Such a decision would indeed appear ultimately to run counter to the objectives of simplification and of strengthening the technical and administrative capacity of project initiators. What is more, the rapporteur believes it essential to stick to, inasmuch as possible, certain fundamental principles deriving from the Cohesion Policy financial rules.

As for the controversial issue of geographical balance in the selection of projects, your rapporteur is in favour of an increased rate of co-financing for regions with geographical handicaps and with particularly delicate ecosystems.

Although the LIFE programme is supposed to strengthen the dynamics of local projects, integrated projects can help raise awareness of the programme and help it fit in better with other EU priority action areas. A fairer geographical balance must therefore be struck for integrated projects so that all Member States may fully benefit from them. This type of activities will markedly improve the leverage effect of the LIFE programme. Your rapporteur thus proposes a substantial raise in the rate of co-financing for such projects and calls for the LIFE programme to be taken into account when drawing up the Common Strategic Framework.

Your rapporteur considers that the catchment area approach must be strengthened, and has therefore tabled amendments with a view to improving management of the marine environment and to fostering closer coordination with EU external action. Your rapporteur thus would like to see clear recognition of the status of project initiators in the overseas countries and territories in line with their close partnerships with the EU and the fact that they are form part of Member States.

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 regulation Recital 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7a) Given that harmful effects on the environment and climate frequently arise from the activities of countries in the vicinity of the Union, particular attention should be given to its external border, OCTs and outermost regions so as to ensure the necessary strategic guarantees and to prevent damage to the environment; given, moreover, that the French outermost regions are excluded from Natura 2000 because Directives 92/43/EC and 2009/147/EC do not take into account to, or list, their fauna, flora or habitats; in view of the Message from Reunion Island of July 2008 and in accordance with the Council conclusions of 10 December 2011, which encouraged the Commission and the Member States to promote a joint approach to nature conservation throughout the Union, including in the outermost regions and overseas countries and territories of the Member States, as well as in accordance with the Commission communication entitled ‘Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020’, in which the Commission undertook to expand and encourage the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST)

initiative, this Regulation should, as part of its sub-programme for Environment, make biodiversity and ecosystem services in the outermost regions referred to in Article 349 TFEU a specific ongoing area of priority, thus consolidating the BEST preparatory action, which was launched in 2011 and has proved to be very successful; and as stated in Article 58 of Council Decision 2001/822/EC 2001 on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community ('Overseas Association Decision')¹ overseas countries and territories shall be eligible for Community programmes, subject to the rules and objectives of the programmes and the arrangements applicable to the Member State to which the overseas countries and territories are linked.

¹ OJ L 314, 30.11.2001, p. 1.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) Environmental and climate requirements should be integrated into Union's policies and activities. The LIFE Programme should therefore be complementary to other Union funding programmes, including the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agriculture Guarantee Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, and Horizon 2020. The Commission and Member States should ensure such complementarity at all levels. At Union level, complementarity should be ensured by establishing a structured

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cooperation between the LIFE Programme and the shared-management Union funding programmes in the Common Strategic Framework, in particular to promote funding of activities that complement Integrated Projects or support the use of solutions, methods and approaches developed under the LIFE Programme. The LIFE Programme should also encourage the uptake of environmental and climate-related research and innovation results of Horizon 2020. Within this context it should offer co-funding opportunities for projects with clear environmental and climate benefits in order to ensure synergies. Coordination is required to prevent double funding.

cooperation between the LIFE Programme and the shared-management Union funding programmes in the Common Strategic Framework, in particular to promote funding of activities that complement Integrated Projects or support the use of solutions, methods and approaches developed under the LIFE Programme. ***To ensure legal clarity and practical feasibility of LIFE Integrated Projects, the cooperation between other Union funds and Integrated Projects should be explicitly provided for in Regulation (EU) No .../... [CPR]. Specific arrangements should be put in place to establish the cooperation at an early stage, so that the advantages of Integrated Projects are taken into account during the drawing up of partnership contracts and operational or rural development programmes.*** The LIFE Programme should also encourage the uptake of environmental and climate-related research and innovation results of Horizon 2020. Within this context it should offer co-funding opportunities for projects with clear environmental and climate benefits in order to ensure synergies. Coordination is required to prevent double funding.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) Halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and improving resource efficiency, together with addressing environment and health related concerns, remain key challenges for the Union. These challenges require increased efforts at Union level to provide solutions and best practices that help achieving the targets of the Communication from the Commission ‘Europe 2020: a strategy for smart,

Amendment

(11) Halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity and improving resource efficiency, together with addressing environment and health related concerns, remain key challenges for the Union. These challenges require increased efforts at Union level to provide solutions and best practices that help achieving the targets of the Communication from the Commission ‘Europe 2020: a strategy for smart,

sustainable and inclusive growth' (hereinafter the 'Europe 2020 Strategy'). In addition, improved governance, in particular through awareness raising and stakeholders' involvement, is essential to deliver environmental objectives. Therefore the sub-programme for Environment should have **three** priority areas for action: Environment and Resource Efficiency, Biodiversity, **and** Environmental Governance and Information. It should be possible for projects financed by the LIFE Programme to contribute to the achievement of the specific objectives of more than one of those priority areas and to involve the participation of more than one Member State.

sustainable and inclusive growth' (hereinafter the 'Europe 2020 Strategy'). In addition, improved governance, in particular through awareness raising and stakeholders' involvement, is essential to deliver environmental objectives. ***To achieve these objectives, the Union – recognising the fundamental importance of biodiversity conservation in the outermost regions – should affirm the voluntary scheme for promoting conservation and sustainable use of BEST in those outermost regions referred to in Article 349 TFEU to which Union environmental protection legislation (Directives 92/43/EC and 2009/147/EC) does not apply, thus drawing on the experience acquired through Union nature conservation policy, in particular Natura 2000.*** Therefore the sub-programme for Environment should have **four** priority areas for action: Environment and Resource Efficiency, Biodiversity, Environmental Governance and Information, **and BEST in the outermost regions**. It should be possible for projects financed by the LIFE Programme to contribute to the achievement of the specific objectives of more than one of those priority areas and to involve the participation of more than one Member State.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) The Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020' (hereinafter the 'Union Biodiversity

Amendment

(13) The Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020' (hereinafter the 'Union Biodiversity

Strategy to 2020') has set up targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. These targets include, among others, the full implementation of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, as well as maintaining and restoring ecosystems and their services. The LIFE Programme should contribute to achieving those targets. Therefore, the priority area Biodiversity should focus on the implementation and management of the Natura2000 network set up by Council Directive 92/43/EEC, in particular in relation to the Prioritised Action Frameworks foreseen in Article 8 of the same Directive, on the development and dissemination of best practices in relation to biodiversity and Directives 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC, as well as on the wider biodiversity challenges identified by the Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020;

Strategy to 2020') has set up targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. These targets include, among others, the full implementation of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, as well as maintaining and restoring ecosystems and their services. The LIFE Programme should contribute to achieving those targets. Therefore, the priority area Biodiversity should focus on the implementation and management of the Natura2000 network set up by Council Directive 92/43/EEC, in particular in relation to the Prioritised Action Frameworks foreseen in Article 8 of the same Directive, on the development and dissemination of best practices in relation to biodiversity and Directives 2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC, as well as on the wider biodiversity challenges identified by the Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. ***The contribution of LIFE to the annual funding needs for the Natura 2000 network should be seen and determined in the context of secured biodiversity expenses from other Union funds. In its resolution of 20 April 2012 on our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020, the European Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that at least EUR 5 800 million per year is provided through Union and Member State funding and that appropriate funding is made available through various Union funds (for example, the CAP funds, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, the Cohesion Funds and a strengthened LIFE+ fund), with better coordination and coherence between those funds, amongst others through the concept of Integrated Projects, thereby improving***

transparency for the different regions in receipt of Union funding;

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(14a) With a view to optimising the use of LIFE programme resources, synergies between action to protect biodiversity and measures to mitigate climate change should be fostered, particularly by promoting projects to safeguard local ecosystems.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16) The priority area Climate Change Mitigation should contribute to the development and implementation of Union climate-related policy and legislation, in particular with regard to greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting, policies related to land use, land use change and forestry, emissions trading system, Member States' effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, carbon capture and storage, renewable energy, energy efficiency, transport and fuels, ozone layer protection and fluorinated gases.

(16) The priority area Climate Change Mitigation should contribute to the development and implementation of Union climate-related policy and legislation, in particular *by supporting synergies with other environmental objectives, such as biodiversity, in the areas of* greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting, land use, land use change and forestry, *conservation of natural carbon sinks, ecosystem friendly approaches in the development of* renewable energy, *waste recovery and biogas production*, energy efficiency, transport and fuels, ozone layer protection and fluorinated gases.

Justification

Waste recovery is an important task, for which local and regional authorities should take responsibility. The sustainable management of waste recovery should also be encouraged.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) The first consequences of climate change can already be seen in Europe and worldwide, such as extreme weather conditions leading to floods and droughts, and rising temperatures and sea levels. The priority area Climate Change Adaptation should therefore contribute to adapt to such impacts across populations, economic sectors and regions to ensure a more resilient *Union* through specific adaptation measures and strategies. Actions in this field should be complementary to actions eligible for funding under the civil protection financial instrument.

Amendment

(17) The first consequences of climate change can already be seen in Europe and worldwide, such as extreme weather conditions leading to floods and droughts, and rising temperatures and sea levels. The priority area Climate Change Adaptation should therefore contribute to adapt to such impacts across populations, economic sectors and regions to ensure a more resilient *environment* through specific adaptation measures and strategies. Actions in this field should be complementary to actions eligible for funding under the civil protection financial instrument *and mainly focus on ecosystem-based approaches, supporting cost-efficient co-benefits with other environmental objectives.*

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) In order to improve the implementation of environmental and climate policy and enhance the integration of environmental and climate objectives in other policies, the LIFE Programme should promote projects that support integrated approaches to the implementation of environmental and climate legislation and policy. For the sub-programme for Environment, those projects should focus primarily on the implementation of the Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, with particular regard to the effective management and consolidation of the Natura2000 network set up by Council

Amendment

(21) In order to improve the implementation of environmental and climate policy and enhance the integration of environmental and climate objectives in other policies, the LIFE Programme should promote projects that support integrated approaches to the implementation of environmental and climate legislation and policy. For the sub-programme for Environment, those projects should focus primarily on the implementation of the Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, with particular regard to the effective management and consolidation of the Natura2000 network set up by Council

Directive 92/43/EEC through the implementation of Prioritised Action Frameworks foreseen in Article 8 of the same Directive, of Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy, and of the Waste and Air legislation. Those projects, while focusing on the themes identified, will be multi-purpose delivery mechanism (e.g. aiming at environmental benefits and capacity building) allowing to reach results in other policy areas, in particular Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive). Those types of projects could be envisaged in other environmental areas. For the sub-programme for Climate Action, those projects should in particular concern climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and action plans. Those types of projects should support only a series of specific activities and measures, while other activities that complement those included in the project should be sourced from other Union funding programmes, as well as from national, regional and private sector funds. Funding through the LIFE Programme should exploit synergies and ensure consistency between different Union funding sources by providing a strategic environmental and climate focus.

Directive 92/43/EEC through the implementation of Prioritised Action Frameworks foreseen in Article 8 of the same Directive, of Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy, and of the Waste and Air legislation. Those projects, while focusing on the themes identified, will be multi-purpose delivery mechanism (e.g. aiming at environmental benefits and capacity building) allowing to reach results in other policy areas, in particular Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive). Those types of projects could be envisaged in other environmental areas. For the sub-programme for Climate Action, those projects should in particular concern climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and action plans. Those types of projects should support only a series of specific activities and measures, while other activities that complement those included in the project should be sourced from other Union funding programmes, as well as from national, regional and private sector funds. Funding through the LIFE Programme should exploit synergies and ensure consistency between different Union funding sources by providing a strategic environmental and climate focus.

Integrated Projects will benefit other funds by increasing their absorption capacity for environment-related and climate-related expenditure. Given the novelty and the lack of broad experience with the 'Integrated Project' approach, stakeholders should, when needed, be supported through an increased co-funding rate and technical assistance for the preparation phase. In addition, a two-step selection procedure should alleviate

the application phase. Exchanges concerning successful integrated approaches should be facilitated, involving all relevant sectors of administration and stakeholders. Based on experience of the first programming years, the factors determining the smooth functioning and success of Integrated Projects should be analysed. Based on that analysis and depending on funding available, additional areas might be added to the scope of Integrated Projects.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Recital 21 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(21b) The success of integrated projects is dependent on close cooperation between national, regional and local authorities and the non-state actors concerned by the LIFE programme's objectives. The principles of transparency and disclosing decisions concerning the development, implementation, assessment and monitoring of projects should therefore be applied.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Recital 26 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(26a) VAT compensation is important as the means of ensuring that entities with relatively limited financial resources, such as NGOs and local and regional bodies, should also be able to implement LIFE projects.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 30

Text proposed by the Commission

(30) In order to secure the best possible use of Union funds and to ensure European added value, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of eligibility criteria for project selection, criteria for the application of geographical balance to “Integrated Projects”, and performance indicators applicable to specific thematic priorities. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level. The Commission, when preparing and drawing up delegated acts, should ensure a simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament and to the Council.

Amendment

(30) In order to secure the best possible use of Union funds and to ensure European added value, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of eligibility criteria for project selection, criteria for the application of geographical balance to “Integrated Projects”, and performance indicators applicable to specific thematic priorities. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level and with social partners ***and local and regional authorities***. The Commission, when preparing and drawing up delegated acts, should ensure a simultaneous, timely and appropriate transmission of relevant documents to the European Parliament and to the Council. ***Delegated acts, however, should be adopted only when appropriate, safeguarding the European Parliament's right to object the measures adopted by the Commission.***

Justification

Local authorities must be more closely involved in the process of comitology.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) ‘pilot projects’ mean projects that apply a technique or method that has not been

Amendment

(a) ‘pilot projects’ mean projects that apply a technique or method that has not been

applied or tested before, or elsewhere, and that offer potential environmental or climate advantages compared to current best practice;

applied or tested before, or elsewhere, and that offer potential environmental or climate advantages compared to current best practice ***and which can subsequently be applied on a larger scale to similar situations;***

Justification

The results of pilot projects may serve as an example to be followed by other local and regional authorities or for cross-border cooperation projects.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation
Article 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

d) “integrated projects” mean projects implementing in a sustainable manner, on a large territorial scale, in particular, regional, multi-regional ***or*** national scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans required by specific environmental or climate Union legislation, pursuant to other Union acts or developed by Member States' authorities;

Amendment

(d) ‘integrated projects’ mean projects implementing in a sustainable manner, on a large territorial scale, in particular, regional, multi-regional ***or transnational*** scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans required by specific environmental or climate Union legislation, pursuant to other Union acts or developed by Member States' ***or regional*** authorities ***and which promote and, if possible, coordinate and mobilise other sources of financing from Union, national and private funds towards environmental or climate objectives and towards major implementation challenges in internal or external actions;***

Justification

The importance of coordination cannot be stressed enough; coordination work is necessary in all areas of EU activity, particularly external action, with a view to involving the EU's neighbour countries which are already included in policies of cooperation in managing regional catchment areas.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

e) “technical assistance projects” mean projects aimed at supporting the preparation of integrated projects referred to in point (d);

Amendment

e) “technical assistance projects” mean projects aimed at supporting ***Member States’ and regional authorities*** in the preparation of integrated projects referred to in point (d);

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. In accordance with their respective responsibilities, the Commission and the Member States shall ensure coordination between the LIFE Programme and the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, in order to create synergies, particularly in the context of Integrated Projects referred to in Article 18 point (d), and to support the use of solutions, methods and approaches developed under the LIFE Programme. At Union level, coordination shall take place within the Common Strategic Framework referred to in Article 10 of Regulation (EU) No.... ***(CSF Regulation)***.

Amendment

3. In accordance with their respective responsibilities, the Commission and the Member States, ***in an active and concerted effort***, shall ensure coordination between the LIFE Programme and the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, in order to create synergies ***and harmonise procedures***, particularly in the context of Integrated Projects referred to in Article 18 point (d) ***and carried out as local development projects run by local stakeholders and under local development strategies referred to in Articles 28 and 29 of Regulation (EU) No (Regulation laying down common provisions)***, and to support the use of solutions, methods and approaches developed under the LIFE Programme. At Union level, coordination shall take place within the Common Strategic Framework referred to in Article 10 of Regulation (EU) No.... ***(Regulation laying down general provisions)***. ***In their partnership contracts, as referred to in***

Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No XXX/xxx (Regulation laying down general provisions), the Member States must indicate the mechanisms which will enable coordination at national and regional level between the LIFE programme and the other funds referred to in Regulation (EU) No XXX/xxxx (Regulation laying down general provisions).

Justification

An overview at an early stage of integrated projects and other funds falling under the scope of the integrated approach provided for in Articles 28 and 29 of the Regulation laying down general provisions will optimise synergies between the LIFE programme's objectives and the EU's regional development strategies.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. Technical assistance to projects shall involve financial support provided as grants to help candidates with preparation work for integrated projects and, in particular, shall ensure that those projects are compatible with the technical and financial constraints and deadlines of the LIFE programme and the programmes listed in paragraph 3.

Justification

Technical support is needed for integrated projects, particularly for regions with administrative bodies with little experience of this type of project, with a view to ensuring that they are implemented in the best possible manner across the EU's territory,

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. At least **50%** of the budgetary resources allocated to projects supported by way of action grants under the sub-programme for Environment shall be dedicated to projects supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity.

Amendment

2. At least **75%** of the budgetary resources allocated to projects supported by way of action grants under the sub-programme for Environment shall be dedicated to projects supporting the conservation of nature and biodiversity.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

b) to support the application, development, testing and demonstration of integrated approaches for the implementation of plans and programmes pursuant to Union environmental policy and legislation, primarily in the areas of water, waste and air;

Amendment

b) to support the application, development, testing and demonstration of integrated approaches for the implementation of plans and programmes pursuant to Union environmental policy and legislation, primarily in the areas of water, ***the marine environment, soil,*** waste and air;

Justification

A greater awareness of maritime areas, in line with the integrated maritime policy, should lead to a more comprehensive strategy. What is more, in many regions there is a pressing need to address soil pollution, which is closely linked to water pollution and waste production.

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

c) to improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union environmental policy

Amendment

c) to improve the knowledge base for the development, ***implementation,*** assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union

and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that impact on the environment within and outside the Union.

environmental policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that impact on the environment within and outside the Union.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Article 11 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

c) to improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union biodiversity policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that impact on the biodiversity within and outside the Union.

Amendment

c) to improve the knowledge base for the development, **implementation**, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of Union biodiversity policy and legislation, and for the assessment and monitoring of the factors, pressures and responses that impact on the biodiversity within and outside the Union.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) to support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of environment, and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful environmental solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training;

Amendment

(b) to support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of environment, and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful environmental solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training, ***intended for all age groups and economic and social categories;***

Justification

Involvement of citizens independently of their level of instruction or their age will help improve knowledge of this programme and increase participation in its initiatives.

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) to support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of environment, and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful environmental solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training;

Amendment

(b) to support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of environment, and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful environmental solutions and practice, including by developing **regional** cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) to contribute to the implementation and development of Union policy and legislation on mitigation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices and solutions for climate change mitigation;

Amendment

(a) to contribute to the implementation and development of Union policy and legislation on mitigation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by **supporting synergies with other environmental objectives, such as biodiversity, and by** developing, testing and demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices and solutions for climate change mitigation;

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) to contribute to the development and implementation of Union policy and legislation on adaptation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by developing, testing and

Amendment

(a) to contribute to the development and implementation of Union policy and legislation on adaptation, including mainstreaming across policy areas, in particular by **supporting synergies with**

demonstrating policy or management approaches, best practices, and solutions, for climate change adaptation;

other environmental objectives, such as biodiversity, and by developing, testing and demonstrating *ecosystem-based* policy or management approaches, best practices, and solutions, for climate change adaptation;

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) to improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective adaptation actions and measures and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice;

Amendment

(b) to improve the knowledge base for the development, assessment, monitoring, evaluation and implementation of effective *ecosystem-based* adaptation actions and measures and to enhance the capacity to apply that knowledge in practice;

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) to facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches, such as for adaptation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level;

Amendment

(c) to facilitate the development and implementation of *ecosystem-based* integrated approaches, such as for adaptation strategies and action plans, at local, regional or national level;

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) to contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative adaptation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being

Amendment

(d) to contribute to the development and demonstration of innovative adaptation technologies, systems, methods and instruments that are suitable for being

replicated, transferred or mainstreamed.

replicated, transferred or mainstreamed
and that focus on ecosystem-based approaches.

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation Article 16 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) to support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of climate and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful climate solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training;

Amendment

(b) to support communication, management, and dissemination of information in the field of climate and to facilitate knowledge sharing on successful climate solutions and practice, including by developing cooperation platforms between stakeholders and training, ***intended for all age groups and economic and social categories;***

Justification

Involvement of citizens independently of their level of instruction or their age will help improve knowledge of this programme and increase participation in its initiatives.

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation Article 17 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. At least 78% of the LIFE programme's budgetary resources shall be allocated to financial instruments and grants to projects.

Justification

The LIFE programme's most important objective, namely providing project financing, must be consolidated by orientating a minimum proportion of its work towards the activities stated in Article 18.

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation Article 18 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

d) integrated projects primarily in the areas of nature, water, waste, air, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;

Amendment

d) integrated projects primarily in the areas of nature, water, ***the marine environment, soil***, waste, air, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;

Justification

Idem AM 13.

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) being politically neutral.

Justification

There should be no suspicion of political subsidising with LIFE funds.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation Article 19 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Integrated Projects referred to in Article 18 point (d) shall involve, where appropriate, stakeholders and promote, ***when possible***, the coordination with and mobilisation of other Union funding sources.

Amendment

3. Integrated Projects referred to in Article 18 point (d) shall ***be accessible to and*** involve, where appropriate, stakeholders and promote the coordination with and mobilisation of other Union funding sources.

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation Article 20 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The maximum co-financing rate for the projects referred to in Article 18 shall be **70%** of eligible costs. By way of exception, the maximum co-financing rate for projects referred to in Article 18 points (d) and (f) shall be **80%** of eligible costs.

Amendment

1. The maximum co-financing rate for the projects referred to in Article 18 shall be **50%** of eligible costs. By way of exception:

– the maximum co-financing rate for projects referred to in Article 18 points (d) and (f) shall be **75%** of eligible costs;

– *in the outermost regions referred to in Article 349 of the TFEU, and in the island and mountain areas and northernmost regions with very low population density, as listed in Article 174 of the TFEU, the maximum co-financing rate for the projects referred to in Article 18(a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (g) and (h) shall be 60%, and for projects referred to in Article 18(d) and in Article 12 (a) shall be 85%.*

Justification

If non-recoverable VAT and staff costs remain eligible expenditure, the necessary financial balance can be struck and the diversity of projects can be ensured. An increase of 25% for integrated projects must go hand-in-hand with a proposal with the clear aim of reinforcing the leverage and the integrated nature of the LIFE programme. Furthermore, regions suffering from permanent geographical handicaps must be accorded higher rates of co-financing.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation Article 20 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

2. VAT shall **not** be considered an eligible cost for projects referred to in Article 18.

Amendment

2. VAT shall be considered an eligible cost for projects referred to in Article 18 ***provided that it is paid by the final***

beneficiary, in accordance with Article 13 of Directive 2006/112/EC, and that it cannot be recovered under applicable national VAT regime. Any application for eligibility must include the appropriate supporting documents from the competent auditing or certification authorities in the Member States.

Justification

The Commission's proposal to exclude VAT costs from eligibility risks to exclude a big part of potential beneficiaries from the LIFE programme and creates unequal treatment across Member States due to varying VAT rates and varying possibilities for reclaiming VAT. Furthermore this change would be an incentive to do less activities that generate VAT, such as dissemination and visibility actions (seminars, printing of material etc.).

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation

Article 20 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. Expenditure linked to permanent staff costs can be eligible as long as it is linked to the cost of activities related to the project implementation.

Justification

The EC proposes in the “explanatory memo” to the Regulation to limit or exclude eligibility of costs for permanent staff not specifically recruited for the project, to reduce monitoring and reporting problems. This would have negative impacts on the quality and feasibility of projects especially of smaller governmental and non-governmental organisations, who depend on continuity of permanent staff and their expertise, and whose staff members often work part-time in several projects at a time.

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation

Article 23

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The LIFE Programme may fund public ***and***

The LIFE Programme may fund public

private bodies.

bodies.

Justification

To ensure that the use of funds is efficient and neutral in terms of value and provides maximum added value for the region and not individual interests.

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation
Article 24 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall adopt multiannual work programmes for the LIFE Programme. *Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 29(2).*

Amendment

1. The Commission shall ***be empowered to*** adopt ***delegated acts in accordance with Article 30 concerning the adoption of*** multiannual work programmes for the LIFE Programme, ***and shall ensure that stakeholders are duly consulted when multiannual work programmes are developed.***

PROCEDURE

Title	Establishment of a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
References	COM(2011)0874 – C7-0498/2011 – 2011/0428(COD)
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	ENVI 15.12.2011
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	REGI 15.12.2011
Rapporteur Date appointed	Patrice Tirolien 26.1.2012
Date adopted	11.7.2012
Result of final vote	+: 39 –: 7 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	François Alfonsi, Charalampos Angourakis, Catherine Bearder, Victor Boştinaru, John Bufton, Salvatore Caronna, Nikos Chrysogelos, Francesco De Angelis, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Danuta Maria Hübner, Filiz Hakaeva Hyusmenova, Vincenzo Iovine, María Irigoyen Pérez, Seán Kelly, Mojca Kleva, Constanze Angela Krehl, Petru Constantin Luhan, Vladimír Maňka, Riikka Manner, Iosif Matula, Erminia Mazzoni, Miroslav Mikolášik, Jens Nilsson, Jan Olbrycht, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Younous Omarjee, Markus Pieper, Monika Smolková, Ewald Stadler, Georgios Stavrakakis, Nuno Teixeira, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Oldřich Vlasák, Kerstin Westphal, Hermann Winkler, Joachim Zeller
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Jan Březina, Karima Delli, Ivars Godmanis, Juozas Imbrasas, Maurice Ponga, Elisabeth Schroedter, Richard Seeber, Patrice Tirolien
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Hans-Gert Pötering, Konrad Szymański