



2018/0209(COD)

18.10.2018

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 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 (COM(2018)0385 – C8-0249/2018 – 2018/0209(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Maria Gabriela Zoană

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The LIFE Programme is an instrument for funding of the Union's policy to protect the environment and biodiversity and to adapt to climate change. It contributes towards the Union's goal of spending 25% of overall expenditure on climate objectives. The European Parliament decided in its resolution of 14 March 2018 on the next MFF: Preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020 that this goal should be increased to 30%.

The programme funds projects under the sub-programmes 'Nature and Biodiversity', 'Circular Economy and Quality of Life', 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation' and 'Clean Energy Transition'. The objective of the programme is to contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. This is done by promoting innovative techniques in the field of environment policy, and generally finding ways of improving implementation of Union policy in this area.

The Commission's proposal for the LIFE Programme for 2021-2027 takes into account a number of the concerns of the Committee on Regional Development. In particular, the proposal:

- provides for synergies between the LIFE Programme and the cohesion policy funds;
- contains specific rules for funding in the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories, including the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST) scheme;
- allows for the extension of the programme to third countries under certain conditions;
- gives a significant place to cooperation and the development of best practices.

Your rapporteur therefore proposes the approval of this programme, with a number of amendments to:

- stress the link between cohesion policy and the LIFE Programme;
- give a greater role to regional and local authorities;
- support administrative capacity building projects;
- underline the importance of environmental funding for the Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories;
- give greater precision to the conditions for the participation of third countries, including former Member States of the Union, in the programme.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) Pursuing the achievement of the Union's objectives and targets set by environmental, climate and related clean energy legislation, policy, plans and international commitments, the Programme should contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, either through direct interventions or by supporting the integration of those objectives in other policies.

Amendment

(3) Pursuing the achievement of the Union's objectives and targets set by environmental, climate and related clean energy legislation, policy, plans and international commitments, the Programme should contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, to the **preservation**, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, either through direct interventions or by supporting the integration of those objectives in other policies.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) The Union is committed to developing a comprehensive response to the sustainable development goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development, which highlight the intrinsic connection between the management of natural resources to ensure their long-term availability, ecosystem services, their link to human health and sustainable and socially inclusive economic growth. In this spirit, the Programme should make a material contribution to both economic development and social cohesion.

Amendment

(4) The **European Union as a whole** is committed to developing a comprehensive response to the sustainable development goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development, which highlight the intrinsic connection between the management of natural resources to ensure their long-term availability, ecosystem services, their link to human health and sustainable and socially inclusive economic growth. ***This will also support the creation of green jobs.*** In this spirit, the Programme should make a material contribution to both ***sustainable*** economic development and social ***and***

territorial cohesion.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) Complying with the Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change requires the transformation of the Union into an energy efficient, low carbon and climate resilient society. This in turn requires actions, with a special focus on sectors that contribute most to the current levels of CO₂ output and pollution, contributing to the implementation of the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and the Member States' Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans and preparations for the Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy. The Programme should also include measures contributing to the implementation of the Union's climate adaptation policy to decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

Amendment

(7) Complying with the Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change requires the transformation of the Union into an energy efficient, low carbon and climate resilient society. This in turn requires actions, with a special focus on sectors that contribute most to the current levels of CO₂ output and pollution, contributing to the implementation of the 2030 energy and climate policy framework and the Member States' Integrated National Energy and Climate Plans, ***including at regional and local level***, and preparations for the Union's mid-century and long-term climate and energy strategy. The Programme should also include measures contributing to the implementation of the Union's climate adaptation policy to decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(7 a) The European Parliament, in its resolution of 14 June 2017 on promoting cohesion in the outermost regions of the EU: Implementation of Article 349 TFEU (2016/2250(INI)), recalled the specific needs of the outermost regions with regard to the environment and climate

action..

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) The transition to clean energy is an essential contribution to the mitigation of climate change with co-benefits for the environment. Actions for capacity building supporting the clean energy transition, funded until 2020 under Horizon 2020, should be integrated in the Programme since their objective is ***not to fund excellence and generate innovation, but to*** facilitate the uptake of already available technology ***that*** will contribute to ***climate mitigation***. The inclusion of these capacity building activities into the Programme offers potential for synergies between the sub-programmes and increases the overall coherence of Union funding. Therefore, data should be collected and disseminated on the uptake of existing research and innovation solutions in the LIFE projects, including from the Horizon Europe ***programme and its*** predecessors.

Amendment

(8) The transition to clean energy is an essential contribution to the mitigation of climate change with co-benefits for the environment. Actions for capacity building supporting the clean energy transition, funded until 2020 under Horizon 2020, should be integrated in the Programme since their objective is to facilitate the uptake of already available technology, ***which*** will contribute to ***addressing environmental challenges, mitigating climate change and attaining the Union's environmental goals***. The inclusion of these capacity building activities into the Programme offers potential for synergies between the sub-programmes and increases the overall coherence of Union funding. Therefore, data should be collected and disseminated on the uptake of existing research and innovation solutions in the LIFE projects, including from the Horizon Europe ***and other existing programmes*** and ***their*** predecessors.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The impact assessments of the Clean Energy legislation estimate that the delivery of the Union's 2030 energy targets will require additional investments of EUR 177 billion annually in the period 2021-

Amendment

(9) The impact assessments of the Clean Energy legislation estimate that the delivery of the Union's 2030 energy targets will require additional investments of EUR 177 billion annually in the period 2021-

2030. The biggest gaps relate to the investments in buildings decarbonisation (energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources), where capital needs to be channelled towards projects of highly distributed nature. One of the objectives of the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme is to build capacity for projects development and aggregation, thereby also helping to absorb funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds and catalyse investments in clean energy also using the financial instruments provided under InvestEU.

2030. The biggest gaps relate to the investments in buildings decarbonisation (energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources), where capital needs to be channelled towards projects of highly distributed nature. One of the objectives of the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme is to build capacity for projects development and aggregation, ***focusing on the specific energy potential of the regions***, thereby also helping to absorb funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds and catalyse investments in clean energy also using the financial instruments provided under InvestEU.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) Synergies with Horizon Europe should ensure that research and innovation needs to tackle environmental, climate and energy challenges within the EU are identified and established during Horizon Europe's strategic research and innovation planning process. LIFE should continue to act as a catalyst for implementing EU environment, climate and clean energy policy and legislation, including by taking up and applying research and innovation results from Horizon Europe and help deploying them on a larger scale where it can help address environmental, climate or clean energy transition issues. Horizon Europe's European Innovation Council can provide support to scale up and commercialise new breakthrough ideas that may result from the implementation of LIFE projects.

Amendment

(10) Synergies with Horizon Europe should ensure that research and innovation needs to tackle environmental, climate and energy challenges within the EU are identified and established during Horizon Europe's strategic research and innovation planning process. LIFE should continue to act as a catalyst for implementing EU environment, climate and clean energy policy and legislation, including by taking up and applying research and innovation results from Horizon Europe and help deploying them on a larger scale where it can help address environmental, climate or clean energy transition issues. ***The administratively more complex application and evaluation procedure in the new LIFE programme should, in addition, be simplified by following the model of the Horizon 2020 rules and procedures. The new LIFE programme should incorporate successful components of Horizon 2020 in its future implementation plans.*** Horizon Europe's

European Innovation Council can provide support to scale up and commercialise new breakthrough ideas that may result from the implementation of LIFE projects.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) The Union's most recent Environmental Implementation Review package²¹ indicates that significant progress is required to accelerate implementation of the Union environment acquis and enhance the integration of environmental and climate objectives into other policies. The Programme should therefore act as a catalyst to achieve the required progress through developing, testing **and** replicating new approaches; supporting policy development, monitoring and review; enhancing **stakeholder** involvement; mobilising investments across Union investment programmes or other financial sources and supporting actions to overcome the various obstacles to the effective implementation of key plans required by environment legislation.

²¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - The EU Environmental Implementation Review: Common challenges and how to combine efforts to deliver better results (COM/2017/063 final).

Amendment

(12) The Union's most recent Environmental Implementation Review package²¹ indicates that significant progress is required to accelerate implementation of the Union environment acquis and enhance the integration of environmental and climate objectives into other policies. The Programme should therefore act as a catalyst to achieve the required progress through developing, testing, replicating **and increasing the visibility of** new approaches **and best practices**; supporting policy development, **coherence, consistency**, monitoring and review; **promoting more effective coordination between national, regional and local authorities**; enhancing **all stakeholders' involvement, particularly with regard to national, regional and local authorities, NGOs, research centres and businesses**; mobilising investments across Union investment programmes or other financial sources and supporting actions to overcome the various obstacles to the effective implementation of key plans required by environment legislation.

²¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - The EU Environmental Implementation Review: Common challenges and how to combine efforts to deliver better results (COM/2017/063 final).

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) Halting and reversing biodiversity loss, including in marine ecosystems, requires support for the development, implementation, enforcement and assessment of relevant Union legislation and policy, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020²², Council Directive 92/43/EEC²³ and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁴ and Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁵, in particular by developing the knowledge base for policy development and implementation and by developing, testing, demonstrating and applying best practices and solutions on small scale or tailored to specific local, regional or national contexts, including integrated approaches for the implementation of the prioritised action frameworks prepared on the basis of Directive 92/43/EEC. The Union should track its biodiversity-related expenditure to fulfil its reporting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Requirements for tracking in other relevant Union legislation should also be met.

²² COM(2011) 244 final.

²³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May

Amendment

(13) Halting and reversing biodiversity loss, including in marine ecosystems, requires support for the development, implementation, enforcement and assessment of relevant Union legislation and policy, including the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020²², Council Directive 92/43/EEC²³ and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁴ and Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁵, in particular by developing the knowledge base for policy development and implementation and by developing, testing, demonstrating and applying best practices and solutions on small scale or tailored to specific local, regional or national contexts, including integrated approaches for the implementation of the prioritised action frameworks prepared on the basis of Directive 92/43/EEC.

Biodiversity protection cannot be addressed in isolation: a coordinated approach at the EU and international level is needed. The Union should put greater emphasis on and resources towards improving the gathering and collating of biological data and converting those data into outputs that will provide an improved geographical focus of conservation action. The Union should track its biodiversity-related expenditure to fulfil its reporting obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Requirements for tracking in other relevant Union legislation should also be met.

²² COM(2011) 244 final.

²³ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May

1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7).

²⁴ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7).

²⁵ Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 35).

1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7).

²⁴ Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7).

²⁵ Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (OJ L 317, 4.11.2014, p. 35).

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) Recent evaluations and assessments, including the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the Fitness Check of Nature legislation, indicate that one of the main underlying causes for insufficient implementation of Union nature legislation and of the biodiversity strategy is the lack of adequate financing. The main Union funding instruments, including the [European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund], can make a significant contribution towards meeting those needs. The Programme *can* further improve the efficiency of such mainstreaming through strategic nature projects dedicated to catalysing the implementation of Union nature and biodiversity legislation and policy, including the actions set out in the Priority Action Frameworks developed in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC. The strategic nature projects should support

Amendment

(14) Recent evaluations and assessments, including the mid-term review of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and the Fitness Check of Nature legislation, indicate that one of the main underlying causes for insufficient implementation of Union nature legislation and of the biodiversity strategy is the lack of adequate financing *and better coordination between governmental and scientific institutions*. The main Union funding instruments, including *in particular the ESI Funds, namely* the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, can make a significant contribution towards meeting those needs. The Programme *must* further improve the efficiency of such mainstreaming through strategic nature projects dedicated to *sustainability and conservation and* catalysing the implementation of Union nature and biodiversity legislation and

programmes of actions in Member States for the mainstreaming of relevant nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes, thus ensuring that appropriate funds are mobilised for implementing these policies. Member States could decide within their Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy to use a certain share of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development allocation to leverage support for actions that complement the Strategic Nature Projects as defined under this Regulation.

policy, including the actions set out in the Priority Action Frameworks developed in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC. ***In many Member States, a large proportion of ecosystems has been degraded; restoration of ecosystems contributes to halting biodiversity loss, and safeguarding the ecosystem services that they provide. Specific attention should be given to providing space for natural processes to restore and sustain ecosystems and stimulate partnerships with other economic sectors, such as forestry and water management in developing nature-based economies.*** The strategic nature projects should support programmes of actions in Member States for the mainstreaming of relevant nature and biodiversity objectives into other policies and financing programmes, thus ensuring that appropriate funds are mobilised, ***with synergy between the various Union funding instruments*** for implementing these policies, ***striking a balance between nature protection and local and regional development needs.*** Member States ***and their regions*** could decide within their Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy to use a certain share of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development allocation to leverage support for actions that complement the Strategic Nature Projects as defined under this Regulation.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) The voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST) promotes the conservation of biodiversity, including marine biodiversity, and

Amendment

(15) The voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST) promotes the conservation of biodiversity, including marine biodiversity, and

sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, in the Union's Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories. BEST has helped to raise awareness for the ecological importance of the Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories for conserving global biodiversity. In their Ministerial Declarations in 2017 and 2018, Overseas Countries and Territories have expressed their appreciation for this small grant scheme for biodiversity. *It is appropriate to allow the Programme to continue financing small grants for biodiversity in both the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories.*

sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, in the Union's Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories. BEST has helped to raise awareness for the ecological importance of the Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories for conserving global biodiversity. In their Ministerial Declarations in 2017 and 2018, Overseas Countries and Territories have expressed their appreciation for this small grant scheme for biodiversity. *It is therefore necessary to make it sustainable by integrating it into the LIFE programme and ensuring ambitious financial resources for its budget. The Programme must continue financing small grants for biodiversity in both the Outermost Regions and the Overseas Countries and Territories, thus giving effect to the Union's responsibility towards those areas, guaranteeing the pursuit of the Union's environmental objectives, and contributing to social and territorial cohesion. This scheme does not replace other funding for outermost regions under the LIFE Programme.*

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) Promoting the circular economy requires a mentality shift in the way of designing, producing, consuming and disposing of materials and products, including plastics. The Programme should contribute to the transition to a circular economy model through financial support targeting a variety of actors (businesses, public authorities and consumers), in particular by applying, developing, and

Amendment

(16) Promoting the circular economy requires a mentality shift in the way of designing, producing, consuming and disposing of materials and products, including plastics. The Programme should contribute to the transition to a circular economy model through financial support targeting a variety of actors (businesses, ***national, regional and local*** public authorities and consumers), in particular by

replicating best technology, practices and solutions tailored to specific local, regional or national contexts, including through integrated approaches for the implementation of waste management and prevention plans. Through supporting the implementation of the plastics strategy, action can be taken to address the problem of marine litter in particular.

applying, developing, and replicating best technology, practices and solutions tailored to specific local, regional or national contexts, including through integrated **territorial** approaches for the implementation of waste management and prevention plans. Through supporting the implementation of the plastics strategy, action can be taken to address the problem of marine litter in particular, **thus contributing to the preservation of marine biodiversity**.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) The improvement of governance on environmental, climate change and related clean energy transition matters requires involvement of civil society by raising public awareness, consumer engagement, and broadening of stakeholder involvement, including non-governmental organisations, in consultation on and implementation of related policies.

Amendment

(20) The improvement of governance **at all levels** on environmental, climate change and related clean energy transition matters requires involvement of civil society by **increasing communication and** raising public awareness, **involving national, regional and local authorities**, consumer engagement, and broadening of stakeholder involvement, including non-governmental organisations, **research and innovation partners and businesses** in consultation on and implementation of related policies.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation Recital 22

Text proposed by the Commission

(22) The Programme should prepare and support market players for the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy by testing new business opportunities, upgrading professional skills, facilitating consumers' access to sustainable products

Amendment

(22) The Programme should prepare and support market players for the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy by testing new business opportunities, upgrading professional skills, facilitating consumers' access to sustainable products

and services, engaging and empowering influencers and testing novel methods to adapt the existing processes and business landscape. To support a broader market uptake of sustainable solutions, general public acceptance and consumer engagement should be promoted.

and services, engaging and empowering influencers and testing novel methods to adapt the existing processes and business landscape, ***as well as involving local and regional stakeholders in the implementation of objectives in the context of the circular economy.*** To support a broader market uptake of sustainable solutions, general public acceptance and consumer engagement should be promoted, ***including through media campaigns.***

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation Recital 23

Text proposed by the Commission

(23) At Union level, large investments in environmental and climate actions are primarily funded by major Union funding programmes (mainstreaming). In the context of their catalytic role, strategic integrated projects and strategic nature projects to be developed under the Programme should leverage financing opportunities under those funding programmes and other sources of funding such as national funds, and create synergies.

Amendment

(23) At Union level, large investments in environmental and climate actions are primarily funded by major Union funding programmes (mainstreaming), ***including the cohesion funds.*** In the context of their catalytic role, strategic integrated projects and strategic nature projects to be developed under the Programme should leverage financing opportunities under those funding programmes and other sources of funding such as national funds, and create synergies.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this

Amendment

(24) Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, this

Programme will contribute to mainstream climate actions and to the achievement of an overall target of **25 %** of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives. Actions under this Programme are expected to contribute 61% of the overall financial envelope of the Programme to climate objectives. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

Programme will contribute to mainstream climate actions and to the achievement of an overall target of **30 %** of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives. Actions under this Programme are expected to contribute 61% of the overall financial envelope of the Programme to climate objectives. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's preparation and implementation, and reassessed in the context of the relevant evaluations and review processes.

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) *In* the implementation of the Programme ***due consideration should be given to*** the strategy for outermost regions ***in view of Article 349 TFEU*** and the specific needs and vulnerabilities of ***these*** regions. Union policies other than environmental, climate and relevant clean energy transition policies should also be taken into account.

Amendment

(25) ***In accordance with Articles 174 and 349 TFEU***, the implementation of the Programme ***must respect*** the strategy for outermost regions, ***which are fully part of the Union***, and, ***in general, cater to*** the specific needs, ***characteristics, constraints*** and vulnerabilities of regions ***which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps. That implementation could also contribute to reducing inequalities between the developmental levels of the different regions and reducing the development deficit of the most disadvantaged regions, including the specific challenges of implementing environmentally friendly policies to contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy and preserving biodiversity there.*** Union policies other than environmental, climate and relevant clean energy transition policies should also be taken into account.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Recital 26

Text proposed by the Commission

(26) In support of the implementation of the Programme, the Commission should collaborate with the Programme's national contact points, organise seminars and workshops, publish lists of projects funded under the Programme or undertake other activities *to* disseminate project results and to facilitate exchanges of experience, knowledge and best practices and the replication of project results across the Union. Such activities should in particular target Member States with a low uptake of funds and should facilitate the communication and cooperation between project beneficiaries, applicants or stakeholders of completed and ongoing projects in the same field.

Amendment

(26) In support of the implementation of the Programme, the Commission should collaborate with the Programme's national, ***regional and local*** contact points, organise seminars and workshops, publish lists of projects funded under the Programme or undertake other activities, ***such as media campaigns, in order to better*** disseminate project results and to facilitate exchanges of experience, knowledge and best practices and the replication of project results across the Union, ***thus promoting cooperation and communication***. Such activities should in particular target Member States with a low uptake of funds and should facilitate the communication and cooperation between project beneficiaries, applicants or stakeholders of completed and ongoing projects in the same field. ***It is essential that this communication and cooperation should also involve regional and local authorities and stakeholders.***

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Recital 31

Text proposed by the Commission

(31) The types of financing and the methods of implementation should be chosen on the basis of their ability to achieve the specific objectives of the actions and to deliver results, taking into account, in particular, the costs of controls, the administrative burden, and the expected risk of non-compliance. As regards grants, this should include consideration of the use

Amendment

(31) The types of financing and the methods of implementation should be chosen on the basis of their ability to achieve the specific objectives of the actions and to deliver ***the best*** results, taking into account, in particular, the costs of controls, the administrative burden, the expected risk of non-compliance ***and the lower co-financing rate compared with***

of lump sums, flat rates and scales of unit costs.

other direct management instruments. As regards grants, this should include consideration of the use of lump sums, flat rates and scales of unit costs.

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Recital 33

Text proposed by the Commission

(33) Pursuant to Article 94 of Council Decision 2013/755/EU, entities established in overseas countries and territories are eligible for funding subject to the rules and objectives of the Programme and possible arrangements applicable to the Member State to which the relevant overseas country or territory is linked. The participation of these entities to this Programme should focus primarily on projects under sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity.

Amendment

(33) Pursuant to Article 94 of Council Decision 2013/755/EU, entities established in overseas countries and territories, ***towards which the Union has a responsibility,*** are eligible for funding subject to the rules and objectives of the Programme and possible arrangements applicable to the Member State to which the relevant overseas country or territory is linked. The participation of these entities to this Programme should focus primarily on projects under sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity.

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Recital 35

Text proposed by the Commission

(35) Third countries which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA) may participate in Union programmes in the framework of the cooperation established under the EEA agreement, which provides for the implementation of the programmes by a decision under that agreement. Third countries may also participate on the basis of other legal instruments. A specific provision should be introduced in this Regulation to grant the

Amendment

(35) Third countries which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA) may participate in Union programmes in the framework of the cooperation established under the EEA agreement, which provides for the implementation of the programmes by a decision under that agreement. Third countries, ***including former Member States of the Union,*** may also participate on the basis of other legal instruments. A specific provision should be

necessary rights for and access to the authorizing officer responsible, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as well as the European Court of Auditors to comprehensively exert their respective competences.

introduced in this Regulation to grant the necessary rights for and access to the authorizing officer responsible, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) as well as the European Court of Auditors to comprehensively exert their respective competences. ***Provision should also be made for recourse to the Court of Justice of the European Union where appropriate.***

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation Article 1 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

This Regulation establishes the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) (the ‘Programme’).

Amendment

This Regulation establishes the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) (the ‘Programme’) ***covering the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027.***

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation Article 1 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

It ***lays down*** the objectives of the Programme, the budget for the period 2021-2027, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding.

Amendment

It ***provides for*** the objectives of the Programme, the budget for the period 2021-2027, the forms of Union funding and the rules for providing such funding ***from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027.***

Amendment 24

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

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) 'strategic nature projects' means

Amendment

(1) 'strategic nature projects' means

projects that support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in the Member States to mainstream these objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the priority action frameworks established pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC;

projects that support the achievement of Union nature and biodiversity objectives by implementing coherent programmes of action in the Member States, **at national, regional and local level**, to mainstream these objectives and priorities into other policies and financing instruments, including through coordinated implementation of the priority action frameworks established pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC;

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) 'strategic integrated projects' means projects that implement on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant clean energy Union legislation or policy, while ensuring involvement of stakeholders and promoting the coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source;

Amendment

(2) 'strategic integrated projects' means projects that implement on a regional, multi-regional, national or transnational scale, environmental or climate strategies or action plans developed by Member States' authorities, **at national, regional and local level**, and required by specific environmental, climate or relevant clean energy Union legislation or policy, while ensuring involvement of stakeholders and promoting the coordination with and mobilisation of at least one other Union, national or private funding source;

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) 'standard action projects' means projects, other than strategic integrated projects, strategic nature projects or technical assistance projects, that pursue the specific objectives of the Programme set out in Article 3(2);

Amendment

(4) 'standard action projects' means projects, other than strategic integrated projects, strategic nature projects or technical assistance projects, **such as bottom-up projects (Community-Led Local Development)**, that pursue the specific objectives of the Programme set out in Article 3(2);

Amendment 27

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) ‘administrative capacity building projects’ means projects by which Member States’ authorities increase their ability to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives, as well as to understand and deal with their development in a broader context and in a sustainable manner.

Amendment 28

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The general objective of the Programme is to contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, ***energy-efficient***, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, including through the transition to clean energy, to the protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

The general objective of the Programme is to contribute to the shift towards a ***sustainable***, clean, circular, ***energy and resource-efficient***, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, including through the transition to clean ***and renewable*** energy, to the protection, ***preservation*** and improvement of the quality of the environment and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss, thereby contributing to sustainable development ***and tackling climate change. The Programme shall also support better environmental and climate governance at all levels, including the stronger involvement of local and regional authorities and civil society organisations.***

Amendment 29

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action, including the transition to clean energy, and to contribute to the application of best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity;

Amendment

(a) to develop, demonstrate and promote innovative techniques and approaches for reaching the objectives of the Union legislation and policy on environment and climate action, including the transition to clean ***and renewable*** energy, and to contribute to the application of best practice in relation to nature and biodiversity;

Amendment 30

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy, including by improving governance through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society;

Amendment

(b) to support the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the relevant Union legislation and policy, ***whilst improving cooperation and communication,*** including by improving ***multi-level*** governance through enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society, ***including at regional and local level;***

Amendment 31

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results, integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector practices,

Amendment

(c) to catalyse the large-scale deployment of successful technical and policy-related solutions for implementing the relevant Union legislation and policy by replicating results ***and best practices,*** integrating related objectives into other policies and into public and private sector

mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

practices, **including at regional and local level**, mobilising investment and improving access to finance.

Amendment 32

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1 – point 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) the sub-programme Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation;

Amendment

(a) the sub-programme Climate Change **Governance**, Mitigation and Adaptation;

Amendment 33

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be EUR 5 450 000 000 in current prices.

Amendment

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be **EUR 6 442 000 000** in **2018** prices.

Amendment 34

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The indicative distribution of the amount referred to in paragraph 1 shall be:

- (a) **EUR 3 500 000 000** for the field Environment, of which
- (1) **EUR 2 150 000 000** for the sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity and
- (2) **EUR 1 350 000 000** for the sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life;
- (b) **EUR 1 950 000 000** for the field Climate Action, of which

Amendment

2. The indicative distribution of the amount referred to in paragraph 1 shall be:

- (a) **EUR 4 122 880 000** for the field Environment, of which
- (1) **EUR 2 514 956 800** for the sub-programme Nature and Biodiversity and
- (2) **EUR 1 607 923 200** for the sub-programme Circular Economy and Quality of Life;
- (b) **EUR 2 319 120 000** for the field Climate Action, of which

(1) **EUR 950 000 000** for the sub-programme Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation and

(2) **EUR 1 000 000 000** for the sub-programme Clean Energy Transition.

(1) **EUR 1 136 368 800** for the sub-programme Climate Change **Governance**, Mitigation and Adaptation and

(2) **EUR 1 182 751 200** for the sub-programme Clean Energy Transition.

Amendment 35

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 5 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) information and communication, including awareness raising **campaigns**. Financial resources allocated to communication activities pursuant to this Regulation shall also cover corporate communication regarding the political priorities of the Union, as well as regarding the implementation and transposition status of Union environmental, climate or relevant clean energy legislation;

Amendment

(a) information and communication, including **media campaigns such as** awareness raising. Financial resources allocated to communication activities pursuant to this Regulation shall also cover corporate communication regarding the political priorities of the Union, as well as regarding the implementation and transposition status of Union environmental, climate or relevant clean energy legislation;

Amendment 36

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 5 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) networking and best-practice platforms;

Amendment

(e) networking and best-practice platforms **or projects**;

Amendment 37

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point d – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) other third countries, in accordance with the conditions laid down in a specific agreement covering the participation of the

Amendment

(d) other third countries, **including former Member States of the Union**, in accordance with the conditions laid down

third country to any Union programme, provided that the agreement

in a specific agreement covering the participation of the third country to any Union programme, provided that the agreement

Amendment 38

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 1 – point d – indent 4

Text proposed by the Commission

– guarantees the rights of the Union to ensure sound financial management and to protect its financial interests.

Amendment

– guarantees the rights of the Union to ensure sound financial management and to protect its financial interests, ***and provides for recourse to the Court of Justice of the European Union where appropriate.***

Amendment 39

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Programme shall be implemented in a way which ensures its consistency with 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, Horizon Europe, the Connecting Europe Facility and InvestEU, in order to create synergies, particularly as regards strategic nature projects and strategic integrated projects, and to support the uptake and replication of solutions developed under the Programme.

Amendment

The Programme shall be implemented in a way which ensures ***transparency, and*** its consistency with ***the cohesion policy of the Union, and in particular with*** 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, ***as well as with*** Horizon Europe, the Connecting Europe Facility and InvestEU, in order to create synergies, particularly as regards strategic nature projects and strategic integrated projects, and to support the uptake and replication of solutions developed under the Programme. ***The regional and local authorities affected shall be involved at all relevant stages of programming and***

implementation.

Amendment 40

Proposal for a regulation Article 8 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2 a. The Commission should aim for a balanced annual distribution of the funding of traditional projects between the Member States.

Amendment 41

Proposal for a regulation Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Grants under the Programme shall be awarded and managed in accordance with Title VIII of the Financial Regulation.

Grants under the Programme shall be awarded and managed in accordance with Title VIII of the Financial Regulation, **with a maximum co-financing rate of 85%.**

Amendment 42

Proposal for a regulation Article 10 – paragraph 2 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) administrative capacity building projects;

Amendment 43

Proposal for a regulation Article 11– paragraph 2 – point a – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1) a Member State or an overseas country or territory linked to it;

(1) a Member State or an overseas country or territory, **including outermost regions**, linked to it;

Amendment 44

Proposal for a regulation Article 11– paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Legal entities participating in consortia of at least three independent entities, established in different Member States or overseas countries or territories linked to those states or third countries associated to the Programme or other third countries, are eligible.

Amendment

5. Legal entities participating in consortia of at least three independent entities, established in different Member States or overseas countries or territories, ***including outermost regions***, linked to those states or third countries associated to the Programme or other third countries, are eligible.

Amendment 45

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point e a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ea) projects shall respect the general principle of geographical balance;

Amendment 46

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) where appropriate, special regard shall be given to projects in geographical areas with specific needs or vulnerabilities, such as areas with specific environmental challenges or natural constraints, trans-border areas or outermost regions.

Amendment

(f) where appropriate, special regard shall be given to projects in geographical areas with specific needs or vulnerabilities, such as areas with specific environmental challenges or natural constraints, trans-border areas, ***northern sparsely populated areas*** or outermost regions.

Amendment 47

Proposal for a regulation Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f a (new)

(fa) particular attention is paid to granting funds for the implementation of projects carried out in the outermost regions.

Amendment 48

Proposal for a regulation Article 15 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. Actions awarded a Seal of Excellence certification, or which comply with the following cumulative, comparative conditions:

deleted

(a) they have been assessed in a call for proposals under the Programme;

(b) they comply with the minimum quality requirements of that call for proposals;

(c) they may not be financed under that call for proposals due to budgetary constraints.

may receive support from the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund+ or the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article [67] of Regulation (EU) XX [Common Provisions Regulation] and Article [8] or Regulation (EU) XX [Financing, management and monitoring of the Common Agricultural Policy], provided that such actions are consistent with the objectives of the programme concerned. The rules of the Fund providing support shall apply.

Amendment 49

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

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1 a. All stakeholders, including regional and local authorities as well as civil society organisations, shall be properly involved at all stages of programming and implementation of the work programmes.

Amendment 50

Proposal for a regulation Article 17 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) the allocation of funds within each sub-programme between needs thereunder and between different types of funding;

(a) the allocation of funds within each sub-programme between needs thereunder and between different types of funding, ***as well as the minimum and maximum co-financing rates in each case;***

Amendment 51

Proposal for a regulation Article 20 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The recipients of Union funding shall designate a communication officer ('project communication officer') for each specific project.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE)
References	COM(2018)0385 – C8-0249/2018 – 2018/0209(COD)
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	ENVI 14.6.2018
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	REGI 14.6.2018
Rapporteur Date appointed	Maria Gabriela Zoană 20.6.2018
Discussed in committee	13.9.2018
Date adopted	15.10.2018
Result of final vote	+: 23 –: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Franc Bogovič, Victor Boștinaru, Mercedes Bresso, Andrea Cozzolino, Rosa D’Amato, John Flack, Aleksander Gabelic, Ivan Jakovčić, Constanze Krehl, Louis-Joseph Manscour, Iskra Mihaylova, Konstantinos Papadakis, Stanislav Polčák, Liliana Rodrigues, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Matthijs van Miltenburg, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Joachim Zeller
Substitutes present for the final vote	Raffaele Fitto, John Howarth, Bronis Ropė, Davor Škrlec
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Asim Ademov, Arne Lietz

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

23	+
ALDE	Ivan Jakovčić, Iskra Mihaylova, Matthijs van Miltenburg
ECR	Raffaele Fitto, John Flack
EFDD	Rosa D'Amato
PPE	Asim Ademov, Franc Bogovič, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Stanislav Polčák, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Joachim Zeller
S&D	Victor Boștinaru, Mercedes Bresso, Andrea Cozzolino, Aleksander Gabelic, John Howarth, Constanze Krehl, Arne Lietz, Louis-Joseph Manscour, Liliana Rodrigues
VERTS/ALE	Bronis Ropė, Davor Škrlec

1	-
NI	Konstantinos Papadakis

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention