



2020/0300(COD)

1.2.2021

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Transport and Tourism

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

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2030
(COM(2020)0652 – C9-0329/2020 – 2020/0300(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Rovana Plumb

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Environment action programmes have guided the development of EU environment policy since the early 1970s. The Seventh Environment Action Programme (7th EAP) has expired on 31 December 2020 and its Article 4 (3) requires the Commission, if appropriate, to present a proposal for an Eighth Environment Action Programme (8th EAP) in a timely manner with a view to avoiding a gap between the 7th and the 8th EAP. The European Green Deal announced the adoption of a new environment action programme and the 8th EAP is one of the main legal frameworks to implement the latter at the EU and national level.

The overarching aim of the 8th EAP is to accelerate the Union's transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient clean and circular economy in a just and inclusive way and achieve the environmental objectives of the United Nations' Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, fully endorsing the environmental and climate objectives of the European Green Deal and the Next Generation EU Recovery Plan.

The European Green Deal calls as well on accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility since transport accounts for a quarter of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions, and still growing. To achieve climate neutrality, a 90% reduction in transport emissions is needed by 2050.

In that regard, the Commission has recently adopted the “Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy- putting European transport on track for the future¹” that addresses this challenge and tackles all emission sources. Together with an Action Plan of 82 initiatives that will guide the EU work for the next four years, this strategy lays the foundation for how the EU transport system can achieve its green and digital transformation and become more resilient to future crises.

The rapporteur welcomes this proposal in order to support the EU transition to climate-neutral, resource-efficient clean and circular economy strengthening the integrated approach to policy development and implementation by mainstreaming sustainability in all relevant initiatives and projects at national and EU level. Moreover, it supports the involvement of the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) as of outmost importance in supporting the new monitoring, measuring and reporting of this Programme and to achieve the objectives of 8th EAP.

In line with the EU Green Deal and in order to achieve the objectives of the 8th EAP, the rapporteur believes that all transport modes have to contribute to the reduction of all kind of emissions. Achieving sustainable transport means putting users first and providing them with more affordable, accessible and cleaner alternatives to their current mobility habits ensuring a fair and just transition that leaves no one behind. Moreover, in order to support new sustainable mobility services that can reduce congestion and pollution, especially in urban areas, automated and connected multimodal mobility will play an increasing role, together with smart traffic management systems enabled by digitalisation. Finally, the price of transport must reflect the impact it has on the environment and on health. The EU should in parallel ramp-up the production and deployment of sustainable alternative transport fuels and zero-emission

¹ COM(2020) 789 final.

vehicles.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Transport and Tourism 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 decision

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) The Commission's evaluation of the 7th EAP²⁴ concluded that its 2050 vision and priority objectives are still valid; that it has helped to provide more predictable, faster and better-coordinated action in environment policy; and that its structure and enabling framework have helped create synergies, thus making environment policy more effective and efficient. Moreover, the evaluation concluded that the 7th EAP anticipated the United Nation's 2030 Agenda by insisting that economic growth and social wellbeing depend on a healthy natural resource base, and facilitated delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals. It also enabled the Union to speak with one voice on the global stage on climate and environmental matters. In its evaluation of the 7th EAP, the Commission also concluded that progress related to nature protection, health and policy integration was not sufficient.

²⁴ COM(2019) 233 final.

Amendment

(3) The Commission's evaluation of the 7th EAP²⁴ concluded that its 2050 vision and priority objectives are still valid; that it has helped to provide more predictable, faster and better-coordinated action in environment policy; and that its structure and enabling framework have helped create synergies, thus making environment policy more effective and efficient. Moreover, the evaluation concluded that the 7th EAP anticipated the United Nation's 2030 Agenda by insisting that economic growth and social wellbeing depend on a healthy natural resource base, and facilitated delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals, ***which was further given form at Union level by the Urban Agenda for the EU as set out in the Pact of Amsterdam agreed on 30 May 2016.*** It also enabled the Union to speak with one voice on the global stage on climate and environmental matters. In its evaluation of the 7th EAP, the Commission also concluded that progress related to nature protection, health and policy integration was not sufficient.

²⁴ COM(2019) 233 final.

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a decision

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) According to the EEA report ‘The European environment – state and outlook 2020, Knowledge for transition to a sustainable Europe’ (‘SOER 2020’), 2020 represents a unique window of opportunity for the Union to show leadership on sustainability and to face the urgent sustainability challenges requiring systemic solutions. As stated in SOER 2020, the changes in the global climate and ecosystems observed since the 1950s are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The global population has tripled since 1950, while the population living in cities has quadrupled. With the current growth model, environmental pressures are expected to increase further, causing direct and indirect harmful effects on human health and well-being. This is especially true for the sectors with the highest environmental impact – food, mobility, energy as well as infrastructure and buildings.

Amendment

(4) According to the EEA report ‘The European environment – state and outlook 2020, Knowledge for transition to a sustainable Europe’ (‘SOER 2020’), 2020 represents a unique window of opportunity for the Union to show leadership on sustainability and to face the urgent sustainability challenges requiring systemic solutions. As stated in SOER 2020, the changes in the global climate and ecosystems observed since the 1950s are unprecedented over decades to millennia. The global population has tripled since 1950, while the population living in cities has quadrupled. With the current growth model, environmental pressures are expected to increase further, causing direct and indirect harmful effects on human health and well-being. This is especially true for the sectors with the highest environmental impact – food, mobility, energy as well as infrastructure and buildings. ***In that regard, it is important to ensure that there are sufficient investments in developing appropriate infrastructure for zero-emission mobility, including intermodal platforms and reinforcing the role of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) in supporting the transition towards smart, sustainable and safe mobility in the Union.***

Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a decision

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) The European Commission responded to the challenges identified in the SOER 2020 by adopting the European Green Deal²⁵: a new growth strategy for the twin green and digital transition that aims to transform the Union into a fair and prosperous society, with a competitive, climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy. Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁶ enshrines into law the Union target to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

²⁵ COM(2019) 640 final.

²⁶ COM(2020) 80 final.

Amendment

(5) The European Commission responded to the challenges identified in the SOER 2020 by adopting the European Green Deal²⁵: a new growth strategy for the twin green and digital transition that aims to transform the Union into a fair and prosperous society, with a competitive, climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy. ***The European Green Deal calls as well on accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility since transport accounts for a quarter of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions, and is still growing. To achieve climate neutrality, a 90% reduction in transport emissions is needed by 2050. In that regard, the Commission has adopted the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy^{25a} that addresses this challenge and tackles all emission sources.*** Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁶ enshrines into law the Union target to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

²⁵ COM(2019) 640 final.

^{25a} ***COM(2020) 789 final.***

²⁶ COM(2020) 80 final.

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a decision Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The European Green Deal underpins the Next Generation EU Recovery Plan which promotes the investments in key green sectors needed to

build resilience, and create growth and jobs in a fair and inclusive society. The Recovery and Resilience Facility which will power the Union's economic recovery from the coronavirus crisis together with the Union budget for 2021-2027, is also based on the priority objectives set out in the European Green Deal. Furthermore, all initiatives under Next Generation EU Recovery Plan should respect the European Green Deal's "do no harm" oath.

build resilience, and create growth and jobs in a fair and inclusive society. The Recovery and Resilience Facility which will power the Union's economic recovery from the coronavirus crisis together with the Union budget for 2021-2027, is also based on the priority objectives set out in the European Green Deal. ***The economic recovery presents a unique opportunity to accelerate the pace of transition towards climate neutrality by prioritising investments into decarbonisation and sustainable technologies. Reaching this target will require action by all sectors of the economy, including the rolling-out of sustainable forms of private and public transport ensuring a just and fair transition leaving no one behind.*** Furthermore, all initiatives under Next Generation EU Recovery Plan should respect the European Green Deal's "do no harm" oath.

Or. en

Amendment 5

Proposal for a decision

Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) The 8th EAP should support the environment and climate action objectives of the European Green Deal in line with the long-term objective to "live well, within the planetary boundaries" by 2050, which is already established in the 7th EAP. It should contribute to achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Amendment

(8) The 8th EAP should support the environment and climate action objectives of the European Green Deal in line with the long-term objective to "live well, within the planetary boundaries" by 2050, which is already established in the 7th EAP ***and in the Commission's communication "A clean planet for all: a European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy"***^{1a}. It should contribute to achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a decision Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) The 8th EAP should set out thematic priority objectives in areas of climate neutrality, adaptation to climate change, protecting and restoring biodiversity, circular economy, the zero pollution ambition and reducing environmental pressures from production and consumption. It should furthermore identify the enabling conditions to achieve the long-term and the thematic priority objectives for all actors involved.

Amendment

(10) The 8th EAP should set out thematic priority objectives in areas of climate neutrality, adaptation to climate change, protecting and restoring biodiversity, circular economy, the zero pollution ambition and reducing environmental pressures from production and consumption ***in all economic sectors, including transport***. It should furthermore identify the enabling conditions to achieve the long-term and the thematic priority objectives for all actors involved.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a decision Recital 10 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(10a) The 8th EAP long-term and thematic priority objectives should ensure that sustainability and GHG emissions reduction is inherently integrated in the preparation and implementation of all relevant policy fields, including policies related to mobility, tourism, urban planning and transport infrastructure, life-long development of new skills for transport workers while creating synergies between the relevant policy

areas.

Or. en

Amendment 8

Proposal for a decision

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Enhanced cooperation with partner countries, good global environmental governance as well as synergies between internal and external Union policies are key to reach the Union's environmental and climate objectives.

Amendment

(12) ***Since many of the Union's economic sectors, including transport, are facing growing competition from fast-developing markets in other regions at global level and are closely inter-linked with the dynamic of international trade,*** enhanced cooperation with partner countries, good global environmental governance as well as synergies between internal and external Union policies are key to reach the Union's environmental and climate objectives.

Or. en

Amendment 9

Proposal for a decision

Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) The assessment of progress towards the priority objectives of the 8th EAP should reflect the latest developments as regards the availability and relevance of data and indicators. It should be coherent with and without prejudice to monitoring or governance tools covering more specific aspects of environment and climate policy, such as in particular Regulation 1999/2018 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁰, the Environmental Implementation Review or monitoring

Amendment

(14) The assessment of progress towards the priority objectives of the 8th EAP should reflect the latest developments as regards the availability and relevance of data and indicators. It should be coherent with and without prejudice to monitoring or governance tools covering more specific aspects of environment and climate policy, such as in particular Regulation 1999/2018 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁰, the Environmental Implementation Review, ***the Eurofound's***

tools relating to circular economy, zero pollution, biodiversity, air, water, soil, waste, or any other environment policies. Together with other tools used in the European Semester, the Eurostat SDG Monitoring and in the Commission's Strategic Foresight Report³¹, it would be part of a coherent interconnected set of monitoring and governance tools.

³⁰ Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 1–77.

³¹ COM/2020/493 final.

European Quality of Life Survey (EQLS) or monitoring tools relating to circular economy, zero pollution, biodiversity, air, water, soil, waste, or any other environment policies. Together with other tools used in the European Semester, the Eurostat SDG Monitoring and in the Commission's Strategic Foresight Report³¹, it would be part of a coherent interconnected set of monitoring and governance tools.

³⁰ Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, OJ L 328, 21.12.2018, p. 1–77.

³¹ COM/2020/493 final.

Or. en

Amendment 10

Proposal for a decision

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) Furthermore, in accordance with the requirements set out in Directives 2003/4/EC, 2007/2/EC and 2019/1024/EU from the European Parliament and the Council, Member States should ensure that the relevant data, information and indicators for monitoring the implementation of the 8th EAP are freely available, non-discriminatory, with open access, adequate, of high quality, comparable, up-to-date, user friendly and easily accessible online.

Amendment

(16) Furthermore, in accordance with the requirements set out in Directives 2003/4/EC, 2007/2/EC, **2016/2284/EU** and 2019/1024/EU from the European Parliament and the Council, Member States should ensure that the relevant data, information and indicators for monitoring the implementation of the 8th EAP are freely available, non-discriminatory, with open access, adequate, of high quality, comparable, up-to-date, user friendly and easily accessible online.

Or. en

Amendment 11

Proposal for a decision Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

(17) To reach the priority objectives of the 8th EAP, the EEA and ECHA should be equipped with adequate capacity and sufficient resources to ensure a sound, accessible and transparent knowledge and evidence base to support the implementation of the strategic priorities of the European Green Deal and the assessment of progress under the programme.

Amendment

(17) To reach the priority objectives of the 8th EAP, the EEA and ECHA should be equipped with adequate capacity and sufficient resources to ensure a sound, accessible and transparent knowledge and evidence base to support the implementation of the strategic priorities of the European Green Deal and the assessment of progress under the programme. ***Where relevant, other bodies and agencies should also be involved and contribute to the implementation of these strategic priorities and to the assessment of progress under the 8th EAP.***

Or. en

Amendment 12

Proposal for a decision Article 1 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The 8th EAP aims at accelerating the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient, clean and circular economy in a just and inclusive way, and endorses the environmental and climate objectives of the European Green Deal and its initiatives.

Amendment

2. The 8th EAP aims at accelerating the transition to a climate-neutral, resource-efficient, clean and circular economy in a just and inclusive way, and endorses the environmental and climate objectives of the European Green Deal and its initiatives ***including the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy.***

Or. en

Amendment 13

Proposal for a decision Article 1 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The 8th EAP forms the basis for achieving the environmental and climate objectives defined under the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and its monitoring framework constitutes the environment and climate part of the EU's efforts to measure progress towards greater sustainability, including climate neutrality and resource efficiency, wellbeing and resilience.

Amendment

3. The 8th EAP forms the basis for achieving the environmental and climate objectives defined under the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and its monitoring framework constitutes the environment and climate part of the EU's efforts to measure progress towards greater sustainability, including climate neutrality and resource efficiency, **smart mobility**, wellbeing and resilience.

Or. en

Amendment 14

Proposal for a decision Article 2 – paragraph 2 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) promoting environmental sustainability and reducing key environmental and climate pressures related to production and consumption, in particular in the areas of energy, industrial development, buildings and infrastructure, mobility and the food system.

Amendment

(f) promoting environmental sustainability and reducing key environmental and climate pressures related to production and consumption, in particular in the areas of energy, industrial development, buildings and infrastructure, **tourism**, mobility and the food system.

Or. en

Amendment 15

Proposal for a decision Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – indent 3

Text proposed by the Commission

— paying careful attention to synergies and potential trade-offs between economic, environmental and social objectives so as to ensure that citizens' needs for nutrition, housing **and** mobility are met in a sustainable way that leaves no-one behind;

Amendment

— paying careful attention to synergies and potential trade-offs between economic, environmental and social objectives so as to ensure that citizens' needs for nutrition, housing, **clean intermodal transport and smart** mobility are met in a sustainable way that leaves no-one behind;

Or. en

Amendment 16

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – indent 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

- ***setting out guiding actions for local and regional authorities and promoting the adoption of voluntary objectives and plans, which will aid the implementation of the 8th EAP and environmental legislation in general, while allowing for some flexibility, in order to take into account local and regional needs, capacities, knowledge and expertise;***

Or. en

Amendment 17

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) encouraging the development of smart systems, through a specific sustainable product policy framework, which can become a part of the circular

economy, by stepping up the reuse of end-of-life materials considered as a resource in the transport and tourism sector, such as metal, plastic and other types of materials;

Or. en

Amendment 18

Proposal for a decision

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) ensuring that environmental policies and action are based on the best available scientific knowledge and strengthening the environmental knowledge base and its uptake, including by research, innovation, fostering green skills, and further building up environmental and ecosystem accounting;

Amendment

(f) ensuring that environmental policies and action are based on the best available scientific knowledge and strengthening the environmental knowledge base and its uptake, including by research, innovation, fostering green skills, ***taking into account the social dimension of the transition to a circular economy in the transport and tourism sector, including the upskilling and retraining of the workforce, the need for adequate information to change consumer behaviour*** and further building up environmental and ecosystem accounting;

Or. en

Amendment 19

Proposal for a decision

Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission, supported by the European Environment Agency and the European Chemicals Agency, shall assess and report on the progress of the Union and the Member States with regard to

Amendment

1. The Commission, supported by the European Environment Agency and the European Chemicals Agency ***as well as other bodies and agencies, where relevant***, shall assess and report on the progress of

achieving the priority objectives laid down in Article 2 on a regular basis, taking into consideration the enabling conditions laid down in Article 3.

the Union and the Member States with regard to achieving the priority objectives laid down in Article 2 on a regular basis, taking into consideration the enabling conditions laid down in Article 3.

Or. en

Amendment 20

Proposal for a decision Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Commission shall regularly examine data and knowledge needs at Union and national level, including the capacity of the European Environment Agency and the European Chemicals Agency to carry out the tasks referred to in paragraph 3.

Amendment

4. The Commission shall regularly examine data and knowledge needs at Union and national level, including the capacity of the European Environment Agency and the European Chemicals Agency ***as well as other bodies and agencies, where relevant*** to carry out the tasks referred to in paragraph 3.

Or. en

Amendment 21

Proposal for a decision Article 5 – paragraph -1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission shall carry out an interim evaluation of the 8th EAP once there is sufficient information available about the implementation of the Programme, but no later than 31 May 2024. It shall form the basis to adjust the 8th EAP implementation, as appropriate. The Commission shall submit a report on that evaluation which includes the main findings and the conclusions of the evaluation accompanied by its observations to the European Parliament

and to the Council.

Or. en

Justification

A more regular evaluation system will ensure a thorough monitoring of the progress made towards the priority objectives of the 8th EAP and enable to provide timely adjustments to the Programme implementation if necessary.

Amendment 22

**Proposal for a decision
Article 5 – paragraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

By 31 March 2029, the Commission shall carry out **an** evaluation of the 8th EAP. The Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council containing the main findings of that evaluation, accompanied, if the Commission deems appropriate, by a legislative proposal for the next environmental action programme.

Amendment

By 31 March 2029, the Commission shall carry out **the final** evaluation of the 8th EAP. The Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council containing the main findings **and conclusions** of that evaluation **including its observations**, accompanied, if the Commission deems appropriate, by a legislative proposal for the next environmental action programme.

Or. en

Justification

A more regular evaluation system will ensure a thorough monitoring of the progress made towards the priority objectives of the 8th EAP and enable to provide timely adjustments to the Programme implementation if necessary.