



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Legal Affairs*

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**2009/2152(INI)**

9.3.2010

# OPINION

of the Committee on Legal Affairs

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

on the Commission White Paper 'Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action'  
(2009/2152(INI))

Rapporteur: Eva Lichtenberger

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Legal Affairs calls on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas adaptation to climate change could have a bearing on all EU policy areas, requiring reliable data as to the scope and extent of the necessary modifications,
  - B. whereas the existing European legislation directly addressing environmental issues should provide coherent foundations for enhancing the EU's ability to cope with the impact of climate change,
  - C. whereas action taken at European level should set and meet the highest standards in terms of respect for the environment, both in the short and long term (including adaptation to climate change),
  - D. whereas the global character of climate change, and its social and economic consequences, should force the European Union to support those countries which are most vulnerable and least developed,
  - E. whereas the success recorded to date by some Member States in cutting greenhouse gas emissions should be taken into account when establishing commitments for subsequent periods,
- 1. Stresses the need for easily available and easily understandable reliable data concerning climate change, its impact and possible adaptation measures; supports the Commission proposal to facilitate the exchange of information and research results through an appropriate IT mechanism and database;
  - 2. Emphasises that the existing environmental *acquis* (such as the Birds Directive<sup>1</sup>, the Habitats Directive<sup>2</sup>, the Water Framework Directive<sup>3</sup> and the Floods Directive<sup>4</sup>) needs to be fully implemented in a coherent way across the EU; welcomes the Commission's intention quickly to develop guidelines in order to incorporate adaptation needs into the application of that *acquis*; asks the Commission to exercise fully the new rights the Lisbon Treaty gives it under Article 260 in order to fulfil its role as guardian of the Treaties;
  - 3. Considers that responsibility for making environmentally sound investments should be shared by all Member States and stakeholders; calls on the Commission to consider presenting appropriate proposals for incorporating adaptation to climate change into the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive<sup>5</sup> and the Strategic Environmental

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<sup>1</sup> Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

<sup>3</sup> Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks, OJ L 288, 6.11.2007, p. 27.

<sup>5</sup> Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the

Assessment Directive<sup>1</sup>; suggests that a climate check should be made part of EU-financed infrastructure projects as soon as possible;

4. Believes it is necessary, in view of the relative failure of the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change, to step up efforts to ensure that necessary support is provided to developing countries for their adaptation needs, over and above official development assistance (ODA) and the 0.7% target;
5. Stresses that revenue from the auctioning of allowances under the European Union Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS), including auctions for the aviation and maritime transport sectors, should be earmarked for assisting Member States in adapting to climate change, in accordance with the solidarity principle;
6. Takes the view that the Seventh Framework Programme currently in progress and future research programmes should give priority to conducting research and financing technological development in states incurring high adaptation costs;
7. Stresses the need to provide poorer communities and social groups with adequate protection in connection with the high cost of adaptation efforts;
8. Stresses that investing in a low-carbon economy and promoting energy efficiency and environment-friendly production must not result in greater development disparities between the Member States.

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environment, OJ L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40, as amended by Directives 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC.

<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, OJ L 197, 21.7.2001. p. 30.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	8.3.2010
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 19 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Luigi Berlinguer, Sebastian Valentin Bodu, Françoise Castex, Marielle Gallo, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Jiří Maštálka, Alajos Mészáros, Bernhard Rapkay, Evelyn Regner, Francesco Enrico Speroni, Alexandra Thein, Cecilia Wikström, Tadeusz Zwiefka
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Sergio Gaetano Cofferati, Kurt Lechner, Eva Lichtenberger, Toine Manders, József Szájer