General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020: 'Living well, within the limits of our planet'. 7th Environment Action Programme

2012/0337(COD) - 24/10/2013 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 472 votes to 81, with 21 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020: "Living well, within the limits of our planet".

Parliament adopted its position at first reading following the ordinary legislative procedure. The amendments adopted in plenary are the result of a compromise negotiated between the European Parliament and the Council.

The 7th Environment Action Programme proposed in November 2012 identified **nine priority objectives to be reached by 2020**. The amendments adopted in plenary focused in particular on the following points:

- to agree and implement an **EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change**, including the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management considerations into key Union policy initiatives and sectors;
- to adopt the agreement of a **climate and energy framework** for 2030;
- to halt the loss of **biodiversity** and the degradation of ecosystem services and to restore at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems;
- to ensure that **water quality objectives** are adequately supported by source-based policy measures;
- to urgently increase efforts, inter alia, to ensure that **healthy fish stocks** are achieved, reduce the headline target for marine litter, complete the Natura 2000 network of marine protected areas, and ensure that coastal zones are managed sustainably;
- to develop a renewed **EU strategy for forests**, including sustainable forest management;
- to further develop the approach set out in the **Eco-innovation Action Plan**;
- to develop training programmes geared towards **green jobs**;
- to increase efforts to reach existing targets and reviewing approaches to green public procurement;
- to raise awareness and understanding of **waste** policy and to stimulate a change in behaviour;
- to improve **outdoor air pollution**, moving closer to WHO recommended levels;
- to **continue implementing REACH** in order to ensure a high level of protection for human health and the environment;
- to monitor the implementation of EU legislation on the sustainable use of **biocides and pesticides**;
- to improve the way knowledge about implementation is collected and disseminated to help the general public and environment professionals fully understand the purpose and benefit of Union environment legislation;
- to improve the **knowledge base** and ensure that the evidence underpinning policy-making, including cases where the precautionary principle has been invoked, can be better understood at all levels;
- to ensure that the **public and private sector funding** for environment and climate-related expenditure is increased in order to secure investment;
- to **improve environmental integration** and policy coherence implementing the Directive on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and Environmental Impact Assessment Directive;
- to enhance the sustainability of the Union's **cities**.

The EU should also further intensify its contribution to initiatives that facilitate the transition towards an inclusive and green economy at international level.