

Programme for the environment and climate action (LIFE) 2021–2027

2018/0209(COD) - 26/11/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the report by Gerben-Jan GERBRANDY (ALDE, NL) 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.

The committee recommended that the European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure should amend the Commission's proposal as follows.

Objective: the proposed Regulation aims to establish a **Programme for the Environment and Climate Action** (LIFE), covering the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027.

Members stressed that LIFE is the only programme specifically dedicated to the environment and climate and as such it plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of EU legislation in these areas. It shall contribute to mainstream climate actions and to the achievement of an overall target of **at least 25%** of the EU budget expenditures supporting climate objectives over the MFF 2021-2027 period, and an **annual target of 30 %** as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027.

The general objective of the Programme is to:

- contribute to the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, net-zero emission and climate-resilient economy;
- protect and improve the quality of the environment;
- halt and reverse biodiversity loss and the degradation of ecosystems, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

To this end, the Programme shall:

- 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, renewable energy and increased energy efficiency;
- contribute to the knowledge base, effective management and application of best practice, in relation to nature and biodiversity, including through the support of the Natura 2000 network;
- support the implementation of General Union Environment Action Programmes and improve environmental and climate governance at all levels, including by enhancing capacities of public and private actors and the involvement of civil society.

Budget: the financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 shall be **EUR 6.44 billion in 2018 prices** (EUR 7.27 billion in current prices) as opposed to EUR 5.45 billion in current prices proposed by the Commission).

The indicative distribution of the amount shall be:

Environment: EUR 4.71 billion at 2018 prices, of which: (i) EUR 2.82 billion for the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme and (ii) EUR 1.88 billion for the Circular Economy and Quality of Life sub-programme;

Climate Action area: EUR 1.95 billion of which: (i) EUR 950 million for the sub-programme 'Climate change mitigation and adaptation' and (ii) EUR 1 billion for the sub-programme 'Clean energy transition'.

Synergies: LIFE shall facilitate integration, particularly in major EU funding programmes. Since environmental and climate requirements shall be integrated into the definition and implementation of all EU policies and actions, Members stressed the need to **promote synergies and complementarity with other EU funding programmes**, in particular by facilitating: (i) the funding of activities that complement strategic integrated projects and strategic nature projects; (ii) the uptake and replication of solutions developed under the Programme.

The Commission and Member States shall take steps to prevent administrative overlap and burden on project beneficiaries, arising from reporting obligations from different financial instruments.

In addition, the Programme shall **involve all stakeholders** and sectors involved in a clean energy transition, such as the building sector, industry, transport and agriculture.