Resolution on the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, UK (COP26)

2021/2667(RSP) - 21/10/2021 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 527 votes to 134, with 35 abstentions, a resolution on the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, UK (COP26).

COP26 in Glasgow

While regretting the lack of progress at the COP25 in Madrid in 2019, Parliament stressed that it is vital that the COP26 forges a new consensus on the necessary climate action and ambition to achieve global climate neutrality by mid-century and on robust short- and medium-term policy measures. It also urged the EU and all G20 nations to show global leadership and commit to reaching climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest.

The resolution highlighted the need for COP26 to resolve the outstanding points in the Paris Agreement work programme in order to focus the coming five years on the further development and strengthening of its implementation and operationalisation.

To accelerate the pace of climate action, Members want the EU to replace the current 10-year plan with a five-year timeframe for all countries. They also say that all direct and indirect fossil fuel subsidies should be phased out in the EU by 2025 and called on all other countries to take similar measures.

Parliament is also concerned about the potential impact of travel and other restrictions related to COVID-19 on fair and balanced attendance at COP26. It called on the UK COP26 Presidency to take all the measures necessary to ensure broad and inclusive attendance, with full respect for the sanitary measures. It considered that every effort should be made to ensure that all developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing states, are able to participate in COP26.

Global climate negotiations

Parliament welcomed the fact that President Biden took action to return the United States to the Paris Agreement on his first day in office and his commitment to cut US GHG emissions in half by 2030 compared to 2005 levels and to aim for net-zero emissions by 2050. It expects concrete policy measures and financial flows to follow in a timely manner in order to meet the US's commitments.

While Members acknowledged China's willingness to be a constructive partner in global climate negotiations, they are concerned with the country's dependency on coal. They underlined their position that China should increase its ambition and that its climate targets should cover all GHG emissions and not only carbon dioxide emissions.

The Commission is called on to engage with other major CO2 emitters to create an **international climate club** of countries leading the way to climate neutrality, with common goals on the reduction of GHG emissions, the achievement of climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest, the establishment of a definition of uniform standards for the measurement of emissions, of comparable explicit and implicit CO2 prices in energy and industrial sectors, and on the protection of countries that are willing to implement climate protection measures from the disadvantages of international competition by means of a common carbon border adjustment mechanism.

Industry and competitiveness

Parliament considered COP26 to be the most important one for the European industrial and energy sectors since the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015, as the Union has enshrined a pathway to reach climate neutrality at the latest by 2050 and has launched the Fit for 55 package. Members stressed that the EU should do its utmost to keep its industries' leading position and global competitiveness in the transition towards a net-zero GHG emissions economy.

Role of the European Parliament

Parliament believes, since it must give its consent to international agreements and plays a central role in the domestic implementation of the Paris Agreement as co-legislator, that it should be an integral part of the EU delegation. It insisted, therefore, to be allowed to attend EU coordination meetings at COP26 in Glasgow and to be guaranteed access to all preparatory documents from the moment negotiations begin.