Basic information

2000/2103(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions: European climate change programme, ECCP **Subject** 3.70.02 Atmospheric pollution, motor vehicle pollution 3.70.03 Climate policy, climate change, ozone layer	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	MOREIRA DA SILVA Jorge (PPE-DE)	18/04/2000

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy	LINKOHR Rolf (PSE)	19/04/2000
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	MESSNER Reinhold (V /ALE)	19/04/2000

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Environment	2278	2000-06-22
Environment	2295	2000-10-10
Environment	2253	2000-03-30

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
08/03/2000	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2000)0088	Summary
30/03/2000	Debate in Council		

14/04/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
22/06/2000	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
09/10/2000	Vote in committee		Summary
09/10/2000	Committee report tabled for plenary	A5-0270/2000	
10/10/2000	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		Summary
25/10/2000	Debate in Parliament		
26/10/2000	Decision by Parliament	T5-0482/2000	Summary
26/10/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/07/2001	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/2103(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/5/12611

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A5-0270/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0006	09/10/2000	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T5-0482/2000 OJ C 197 12.07.2001, p. 0218-0397	26/10/2000	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2000)0088	08/03/2000	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2001)0580	23/10/2001	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0189/2000 OJ C 022 24.01.2001, p. 0030	20/09/2000	

Air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions: European climate change programme, ECCP

2000/2103(COS) - 08/03/2000 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: To outline the EU policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the framework of a European Climate Change Programme (ECCP). CONTENT: In view of respecting the commitments undertaken by the EU at the Kyoto conference, action - both at Member state and Community level- will have to be reinforced. In order to do so, the Commission will follow a twin-track approach: the reinforcement of Community-wide policies and the development of emissions trading system within the EU to enhance the cost effectiveness of the EU's implementation strategy, including the preparation for the use of the Kyoto Protocol's flexible mechanisms. A strengthening of common and co-ordinated policies and measures for all major greenhouse gas emitting sectors will be facilitated through the integration of environmental aspects into sector policies such as those for energy, transport, agriculture, industry, internal market and development, where strategies are being developed. In addition, the European Council in its conclusions of October 1999, urged the Commission to put forward a list of priority action to climate change as early as possible in 2000 and to prepare appropriate proposals in due course. In response to these requests, the Commission is now putting forward a list of proposed common and co-ordinated policies and measures. The list is not exhaustive but rather focusus primarily on priority actions in the energy, transport, and industry sector. It could be adjusted however, following discussions in Council and EP and decisions taken concerning different sector policies such as those for energy, transport, industry and agriculture. The main objective of the ECCP to be initiated by the Commission is to identify and develop all those elements of a European Climate Change strategy that are necessary for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. Through a co-operative effort of all relevant stakeholders such as representatives of the Commission, the Member states, industry and the NGO community, the programme will undertake preparatory work for the Commission to propose in due course concrete policy proposals to Council and the EP. In order to launch the programme, a Steering Committee will be set up, comprising all Commission services that take part in the ECCP. It should be responsible for the overall management and co-ordination of the ECCP both in terms of policy approach and organisation. The Committee will create working groups on specific problem areas and will decide on their terms of reference and timetable on the basis of a proposal by the relevant Directorates General. THe working groups (WGs) will work to an agreed timetable. Main elements of the work programmes will include assessments of the environmental and cost implications of policies and measures as well as their compatability with the sector integration policies. On the basis of these assessments, policy recommendations can be made to the Commission. Each WG will have its specific 'set of stakeholders' representing a European rather than a national or regional clientele. The WGs will have a limited size and will consist of approximately 15 persons. Finally, each WG will regularly report to the Commission through its chairperson. A written interim report will berequested after 6 months and a final report after 2 months. The final report will propose policy-oriented conclusions outlining the nature, scope and content of the policies and measures to be considered at Community level. On this basis, the Commission will be in a position to prepare concrete policy proposals containing instruments such as technical regulation, voluntary agreements or flexible mechanisms.

Air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions: European climate change programme, ECCP

2000/2103(COS) - 22/06/2000

In view of the intensification of negotiations in the run up to the sixth Conference of the Parties (CoP6) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Council adopted the following conclusions: 1. The Council reaffirms its commitment to the successful implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and a successful outcome at CoP6. At the same time the Council stresses the importance of creating the conditions for the ratification and entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol by 2002 at the latest. In this context, the Council urges the Commission to present it with a proposal for the conclusion of the Protocol by the Community in March 2001. 2. The Council underlines the importance of the adoption at CoP6 of a strong and comprehensive compliance system, clear and effective rules for the three Kyoto mechanisms and the handling of sinks which ensure real reductions of the overall greenhouse gas emissions of the Annex I countries and thereby the environmental integrity and credibility of the Protocol, as well as the further elaboration and implementation of modalities and procedures for co-operation with developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the context of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). 3. The Council considers that the compliance system should incorporate the necessary elements to ensure that the commitments are complied with; include a body which is able to determine non-compliance, suggest measures to enhance compliance and apply strict consequences for non-compliance, in particular with the targets set out in Article 3.1 of the Kyoto Protocol, with a clear economic impact on Parties so as to both discourage non-compliance and compensate for damage to the environment. In this context, the Council supports a Compliance Fund, a Compliance Action Plan and loss of access to the Kyoto mechanisms as strict consequences for non-compliance with Article 3.1 of the Protocol and will continue to develop its views on this issue. In this regard the further development of a compliance reserve shall be explored. 4. The Council considers that the decision on principles, rules, modalites and guidelines for the use of the Kyoto mechanisms must include criteria for participation in each of the mechanisms, criteria for supplementarity and for the eligibility of projects. 5. The Council also believes that CoP6 should define eligibility criteria for participation in the Kyoto mechanisms. In particular, a clear definition of projects eligible under the clean development mechanism (CDM) is needed in order to achieve its potential in terms of both greenhouse gas emissions reductions and sustainable development in non Annex I countries. In order to allow for a prompt start of the CDM, CoP6 should adopt a positive list of safe, environmentally sound eligible projects based on renewable energy sources, energy efficiency improvements and demand side management in the fields of energy and transport. 6. The Council reaffirms its willingness to continue to work with other Parties to clarify the treatment of sinks in the Kyoto Protocol. 7. The Council also emphasises that any decision on definitions, methodologies and accounting rules should be consistent with sustainable forest management, including the conservation ofbiological diversity. 8. The Council recognises the importance of cooperation with developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the context of the Climate Change Convention. It commits itself to concrete actions in the co-operation with these countries in the area of climate change, that link capacity building, technology transfer and adaptation/mitigation measures. These should be based on sectoral approaches, where appropriate, and integrated

with other sustainable development objectives. 9. The Council believes that there is a need to promote new investments to generate additional resources, strengthen co-ordination of existing bilateral and multilateral actions and, where possible, make full use of co-operation schemes with innovative financing. The Council asks the Commission to indicate how Community budgets, programmes and funds can be geared towards measures to support the accession countries in meeting the Kyoto commitments. 10. The Council notes with concern the current trend of greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union, as assessed in the Commission's communication. It emphasises the importance of strengthening national action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, complemented by common and co-ordinated measures at the Community level. The Council supports the approach followed by the Commission which aims at reinforcing policies and measures at Community level as soon as possible and at exploring proposals for developing emissions trading within the European Union. 11. The Council welcomes the Commission's proposal for a European Climate Change Programme (ECCP). Participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular Member States, in the preparatory work for future Commission proposals can increase acceptance of such proposals and thereby contribute to a more timely adoption of such measures. Based on the results of the programme, the Council urges the Commission to come forward with appropriate proposals as early as possible in 2001. The Council invites the Commission to report on progress made at its meeting in November 2000. 12. The Council recognises that far greater limitation and reduction efforts will be necessary in the next decades. It therefore underlines the need for further negotiations on the subsequent commitment periods and a longer term process to broaden participation. The discussion on what additional action is required to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention should begin at CoP7 in the light of the IPCC Third Assessment Report which is to be released in 2001.

Air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions: European climate change programme, ECCP

2000/2103(COS) - 26/10/2000 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 443 votes for, 1 against and 28 abstentions for the resolution drafted by Mr Jorge MOREIRA DA SILVA (EPP /ED, P) on the communication on EU policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions: Towards a European Climate Change Programme (ECCP). (Please refer to the previous decisions of the Committee reponsible).

Air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions: European climate change programme, ECCP

2000/2103(COS) - 23/10/2001

This Commission Communication analyses and disseminates progress on the implementation of the European Climate Change Programme as well as offering a package of proposals aimed at reducing greenhouse gases. It deals with a concrete set of implementation measures to be addressed in the Commission's work programme in the coming 24 months. From the outset the European Union has been a strong proponent of the need to reduce greenhouse gases in order to arrest global climate change. The European Council meeting held in Gothenburg, June 2001, reconfirmed the Union's determination to meet its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol and to ratify it so as to allow its entry into force by 2002. So what then is the current state of play vis the reduction of green house gases? In many respects the news looks encouraging. According to the 2001 Second Progress Report on greenhouse gas emissions, the EU has seen a decrease of greenhouse gases by 4% since 1990. This indicates that as a whole, the EU is in line with its target paths for both 2000 and 2008-2012. In spite of such encouraging news however the Commission warns against complacency. Added measures are need in order to realise the main objectives of the Kyoto Protocol. Indeed, failure to implement new measures could result in a gap of -8% (about 340 Mt CO2 eq). Strong and timely measures at EU level will thus be an important element of an EU wide climate change strategy. In line with this thinking a European Climate Change Programme was set up last year to help establish, identify and co-ordinate EU policies. A final report from the ECCP was published in June 2001 and encompasses two different approaches - a top-down cross-sectoral study on a cost-efficient evaluation of the EU emission reduction objectives and a bottom-up assessment of policies and measures through expert working groups of the different sectors. The report identifies 40 possible measures which, if implemented, would amount to a combined CO2 emission reduction potential of some 664-765 MT CO2 equivalent. On the basis of this report the Commission proposes a package of measures, to be forwarded in the next two years. They are grouped in four sections: cross-cutting, energy, transport and industry. In the first section namely "Cross-cutting issues", the Commission proposes: - Promoting effective implementation of the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive (IPPC Directive); - Proposing a Directive on linking project-based mechanism including JI and CDM Emissions trading scheme; and - Proposing a Review of the monitoring mechanism; In terms of the second section namely "Energy Issues", the Commission will present the following package: - Proposal for a framework Directive for minimum efficiency requirement for end-use equipment; - Proposal for energy demand management; - Proposal for a Directive for the promotion of combined heat and power (CHP); - Initiatives on increased energy-efficient public procurement; and - Public awareness campaign and campaign for take-off. In terms of the third section "Transport", the Commission will present: - Proposal for shifting the balance between modes of transport; - Proposal for improvements in infrastructure useand charging; and - Promotion of the use of biofuels for transport. Lastly, in the "Industry Sector", the Commission is aiming to introduce the following: - a Proposal for a framework Directive on Fluorinated Gases. The Communication recognises that this package of proposals is neither exhaustive nor complete. Additional actions will therefore be selected from the 42 measures identified by the ECCP. These actions will continue to be monitored and assessed taking into account the views of EU industry and other interested parties. A second ECCP report, similar to the one of June 2001 will be prepared by the end of 2002.

Air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions: European climate change programme, ECCP

2000/2103(COS) - 10/10/2000

The Council recalls its support for the development of the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) and its agreement that priority actions should be taken in the field of transport, energy and industry. The Council has considered a list of priorities of action defined by the Commission in its communication of 8 March 2000. The Council have selected issues that have particular importance for both European Community and Member States climate change strategies and need to be considered as a priority with a view to providing significant effects in the 2008-2012 period as well as to show demonstrable progress by 2005. The Council encourages the Commission to make progress and to propose concrete measures, especially within the framework of the European Climate Change Programme taking into account, inter alia, the environmental and cost-effectiveness of the measures. In addition, the Council emphasises the need for urgent decisions on proposals already under examination, in particular the draft Directive on the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market, the framework for energy product taxation, and the measures under discussion in the field of freight transportation. In the field of transport, the Council requests the Commission to study and prepare measures for various issues including reduction of CO2 from vehicles, reduction of all greenhouse gas emissions from air conditioning vehicles, etc. The Council highlights the need to reduce emissions from power and heat production; reduce emissions of HFCs, PFCs and SF6. The importance of consistency between climate change policies at EU and national levels and the guidelines on environment and state is stressed. Moreover, the Commission is invited to to include an anlysis of economic measures in the context of common and coordinated policies and measures within the ECCP. The Council underlines the importance of considering adaptation of taxation on energy saving products and services, in order to create appropriate incentives for the consumer.