Basic information

2017/2272(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Climate diplomacy **Subject** 3.70.03 Climate policy, climate change, ozone layer 6.40 Relations with third countries	

Key players

European Parliament

Joint committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
AFET Foreign Affairs	LIETZ Arne (S&D)	11/12/2017
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	LEINEN Jo (S&D)	11/12/2017
	Shadow rapporteur PETERLE Alojz (PPE) ŠUICA Dubravka (PPE) JÄÄTTEENMÄKI Anneli (ALDE) PAET Urmas (ALDE) KOULOGLOU Stelios (GUE/NGL) TORRES MARTÍNEZ Estefanía (GUE/NGL) AFFRONTE Marco (Verts/ALE) DALUNDE Jakop G. (Verts/ALE) CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD) PEDICINI Piernicola (EFDD) MÉLIN Joëlle (ENF)	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	VELLA Karmenu

Key events			
Date	**Event**	**Reference**	**Summary**
18/01/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/01/2018	Referral to joint committee announced in Parliament		
20/06/2018	Vote in committee		
26/06/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0221/2018	Summary
02/07/2018	Debate in Parliament		
03/07/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0280/2018	Summary
03/07/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
03/07/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2017/2272(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55 Rules of Procedure EP 59
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CJ26/8/11748

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0221/2018	26/06/2018	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0280/2018	03/07/2018	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2018)628	16/11/2018	

Climate diplomacy

2017/2272(INI) - 03/07/2018 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 488 votes to 113 with 12 abstentions, a resolution on climate diplomacy.

Members stressed the increasingly urgent nature of climate action and the fact that the fight against climate change required a **joint effort at international level.** They urged the Commission and the Member States to continuously facilitate multilateral discourse, as it constitutes a collective responsibility towards the entire planet, for the current and future generations;.

In these circumstances, climate diplomacy can be understood as **a form of targeted foreign policy to promote climate action** through reaching out to other actors, cooperating on specific climate-related issues, building strategic partnerships and strengthening relations between state and non-state actors, including major contributors to global pollution.

Implementation of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030: reaffirming the EU's commitment to the Paris Agreement and to the UN Agenda 2030, Parliament stressed the need for an **ambitious EU climate policy** as well the necessity of developing by the end of 2018 an ambitious and coordinated long-term net-zero carbon strategy for 2050. Regretting the US President's announcement of his decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, Members reaffirmed that the EU has a responsibility to assume a **leading role in global climate action.**

They stressed that, in the context of its foreign policy, the Union should:

- develop capacities to **monitor climate change-related risks**, including crisis prevention and conflict sensitivity;
- take **multilateral measures** to protect people who live in coastal areas or in small island states and who are particularly at risk due to melting ice caps and rising sea levels;
- support the launch of discussions at UN level to **address the issue of migration in vulnerable areas** and to provide a concrete response to the population movements that are expected to occur as a result of climate change.

Any Union initiative in the field of the environment should be based on the legislative powers provided for in the Treaties.

Strengthening the EU capacity for climate diplomacy: in order to better reflect the increased engagement in climate diplomacy, Members called for an increased allocation of human and financial resources in the EEAS and the Commission. The Commission and the Member States were urged to **increase climate diplomacy-related spending** in the next multiannual financial framework (MFF), to approve earmarking of at least 30 % for climate-related spending, as advocated by Parliament in its resolution of 14 March 2018 on the next MFF. The EU budget as a whole should be aligned to the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

Members stressed the need to:

- develop a comprehensive strategy for EU climate diplomacy and to integrate climate into all fields of EU external action, including trade, development cooperation and humanitarian aid;
- create the enabling environments to reorient capital flows towards **sustainable investment;**
- **raise international awareness** for climate change through coordinated communication strategies and activities to increase public and political support;
- take into account the EU's **science diplomacy** as part of the global strategy for climate diplomacy, boosting and financing climate change research.

Parliament invited the Commission and the EEAS to develop **a long-term vision** in order to put forward a joint communication setting out their understanding of EU climate diplomacy as well as a strategic approach for the EU's climate diplomacy activities.

Members highlighted the key role played by parliamentary diplomacy in the fight against climate change.

The fight against climate change as a driver of international cooperation: Parliament called on the Commission to integrate the climate change dimension into **international trade and investment agreements** and to make ratification and implementation of the Paris Agreement a condition for future trade agreements. It recommended the development and systematic inclusion of a **mandatory fundamental climate change clause** in international agreements.

The resolution highlighted the **responsibility** incumbent on the EU and other affluent countries to show greater solidarity towards the vulnerable states, mainly in the Global South and islands. It urged the Union to:

- **support the less affluent countries** in their efforts to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and improve access to affordable renewable energy;
- deepen its strategic cooperation at the state and non-state level by conducting **"zero carbon" dialogues and development partnerships** with emerging economies;
- play a leading role in creating international and regional partnerships on **carbon markets;**
- actively promote at international level a proactive policy to tackle **greenhouse gas emissions**, including through the establishment of emission limits and immediate measures to reduce emissions in the international maritime and aviation sectors.

Lastly, Parliament considered it important for the EU to keep up its efforts to re-engage the US in multilateral cooperation on climate action, urging the US to respect the Paris Agreement without jeopardising its level of ambition; considers that parliamentary dialogue and cooperation with local authorities are key to this end.

Climate diplomacy

2017/2272(INI) - 26/06/2018 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the joint report by Arne LIETZ (S&D, DE) and Jo LEINEN (S&D, DE) on climate diplomacy.

The committee stated in the report that EU diplomatic capacities should be strengthened in order to **promote climate action globally**, support the implementation of the **Paris agreement** and prevent **climate change-related conflict**.

Members began by recalling that climate impacts exacerbate food insecurity, displacement, migration, poverty, gender inequalities, human trafficking, and violence, and have an impact on peace and security. They were particularly concerned about the deterioration in the planet's ecosystems and water resources and the growing threat posed by the scarcity of water and by water-related risks.

It stated that **climate diplomacy** can be understood as a form of targeted foreign policy to promote climate action through reaching out to other actors, cooperating on specific climate-related issues, building strategic partnerships and strengthening relations between state and non-state actors, including major contributors to global pollution.

Implementation of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030: reaffirming the EU's commitment to the Paris Agreement the UN Agenda 2030, Members called on the Commission and the Member States to **play an active and constructive role** during the 2018 Talanoa Dialogue and COP24 in Katowice, Poland, as 2018 will be a crucial year for the implementation of the Paris Agreement

Noting that several studies have found indirect links between climate change, natural disasters and the outbreak of armed conflicts, Members stressed that EU foreign policy should develop capacity to monitor climate change risks, including crisis prevention and conflict sensitivity.

Recognising that climate change exacerbates conditions leading to migration in vulnerable areas, Members called on the EU to actively participate in the debate on a universal legal definition of the term 'climate refugee' within the UN with a view to establishing an international legal framework for persons displaced due to the effects of climate change and the adoption of a common approach on this issue.

Strengthening the EU capacity for climate diplomacy: in order to better reflect the increased engagement in climate diplomacy, Members called for an **increased allocation of human and financial resources** in the EEAS and the Commission. The Commission and the Member States were urged to **increase climate diplomacy-related spending** in the next multiannual financial framework (MFF), to approve earmarking of at least 30 % for climate-related spending, as advocated by Parliament in its resolution of 14 March 2018 on the next MFF. The EU budget as a whole should be aligned to the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs in order to ensure that budget spending does not run contrary to climate efforts.

They urged the EU and particularly EEAS to:

- include climate diplomacy on **EU delegations'** agendas when meeting their counterparts from third countries and international or regional organisations and
- include a **focal point** on climate change in the main EU delegations in third countries and ensure a higher percentage of **climate experts** when creating mixed posts in the EU delegations.
- **mainstream gender perspectives** into climate policies and to take a gender-responsive approach as climate change often exacerbates gender inequalities

The report stressed the need for **significant transformational investment** in economies. Members were convinced that an EU financial system which contributes to climate mitigation and incentivises investments in clean technologies and sustainable solutions will be a role model for other countries.

The fight against climate change as a driver of international cooperation: Members called on the Commission to integrate the climate change dimension into **international trade and investment agreements** and to make ratification and implementation of the Paris Agreement **a condition** for future trade agreements.

The Commission was also asked to:

- make a comprehensive assessment of the **consistency** of existing agreements with the Paris agreement wherever appropriate;
- streamline financial instruments with a view to **ensuring coherence**, to support third countries in tackling climate change and to increase the effectiveness of EU climate action;
- systematically include a **mandatory fundamental climate change clause in international agreements**, including trade and investment agreements, regarding mutual commitment to ratifying and implementing the Paris Agreement, thereby supporting the European and international decarbonisation process.

Members emphasised also the need to move moving towards a circular net-zero carbon economy, and believed that further work on developing **carbon border adjustments** is necessary as a leverage for further efforts by all countries to achieve the objectives enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

The EU's strategic partners: Members regretted the US President's announcement of his decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, but considered it important for the EU to keep up its efforts to re-engage the US in multilateral cooperation on climate action. They considered that **parliamentary dialogue and cooperation with local authorities** are key to this end.

They called for the EU to strengthen support for **civil society** around the globe as agents for climate action, and stressed the role of **regions and cities** as regards sustainable development.

Lastly, Members highlighted the importance of **cross-border cooperation** between Member States and partner countries, particularly as regards cross-border environmental impact assessments.