

NGO voting recommendations on

ENVI vote on A GENERAL UNION ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME TO 2020: 'LIVING WELL, WITHIN THE LIMITS OF OUR PLANET'

24 April 2013 - 15h00

Environmental NGOs welcome the Commission's proposal for a new Environmental Action Programme to 2020 called 'Living well within the limits of our planet'. After adoption by Council and European Parliament, this will provide the strategic direction for Europe's environmental policy for the next 7 years.

*The proposal summarizes succinctly the key challenge Europe needs to address today. Despite 40 years of EU environmental policy making, significant environmental problems such as toxic pollution, loss of biodiversity, climate change and eutrophication persist. Europe's production and consumption patterns at large continue to lead to an ever-increasing ecological footprint. We can't continue on this path. The costs of increasing the use and consumption of natural resources are prohibitively high, further aggravating the economic and financial crises and leading to increased social unrest. Conversely, **developing ambitious environmental policies would enhance Europe's wealth in terms of a rich and healthy environment, as well as high employment, social stability and a competitive economy.** Unfortunately, the Commission's proposal lacks concrete and time specific targets, clear objectives, and solution oriented policy recommendations.*

Environmental NGOs therefore call on the European Parliament to support and strengthen the Commission's proposal in the following ways:

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO STRENGTHEN EU ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

1. **Support a high level of environmental protection, equitable and sustainable wellbeing and regard for the rule of EU environmental law as principle objectives of this programme and firmly reject any weakening of the objectives it sets out.**

SUPPORT amendments: 78, 118, 139



REJECT amendments: 26, 27, 46, 49, 77, 108, 186, 187



2. **Strongly commit to fully integrate EU environmental policy into EU sectoral policies** such as agriculture, fisheries, energy, research and innovation and economy, in particular the integration of the Water Framework Directive into a new Common Agricultural Policy.

SUPPORT amendments: COMP1, COMP3, COMP10, 125, 158 (if COMP1 falls), 184



REJECT amendments: 11, 13, 14 (if COMP3 falls), 160 (if COMP3 falls), 161 (if COMP3 falls)



3. **Support a better implementation of existing environmental policies.**

SUPPORT amendments: 96, 106, 367, 365, 366, 370, 371, 372, 375, 376, 377, 379, 381, 386



REJECT amendments: 48, 51, 368, 369, 380, 382



4. Support proposals that secure sufficient public and private resources will be mobilized to finance the transition to a resource efficient low carbon economy, cutting harmful subsidies and shifting the tax base from labour to resource and environmental taxes.

SUPPORT amendments: 428, 429, 433, 434, 439, 440, 442, 443, 444	
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REJECT amendments: 112, 422, 425, 426, 430, 436, 438, 441, 445	
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5. Support evidence and knowledge based policy making following latest scientific findings

SUPPORT amendments: 100, 111, 387, 389, 391, 393, 394, 395, 397, 406, 407, 408, 409, 413, 417	
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SAFEGUARD EUROPE'S BIODIVERSITY, IT'S NATURAL CAPITAL

6. Support efforts to reduce overall pressure on biodiversity and ecosystems and underline the full and intrinsic value of biodiversity. Ecosystems and services they provide should be protected not only for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity but for biodiversity's intrinsic value as well.

SUPPORT amendments: 83, 135, 136, 147, 153, 170, 213	
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REJECT amendments: 107, 152, 188, 198, 199, 212	
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7. Ensure full and effective implementation of the Natura 2000 network and its underpinning legislation, the Birds and Habitats Directives, the backbone of EU's flagship conservation policy.

SUPPORT amendments: 15, 154, 185, 190	
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8. Support the development of tools and measures to protect soils within a legally binding EU framework within an ambitious timetable set out in the 7th EAP to achieve the adoption of such a framework.

SUPPORT amendments: 127, 171, 177, 178, 180, 197, 208	
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REJECT amendments: 16, 85, 173, 174, 175, 179, 181, 182, 195, 209	
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9. Support the full implementation of the biodiversity strategy, in particular in the aquatic, marine environment, overseas territories.

SUPPORT amendments: 5, 21, 200, 202	
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REJECT amendments: 18, 203	
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10. Support action to tackle the threat posed by Invasive Species.

SUPPORT amendments: 129, 155	
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SUPPORT A RESOURCE EFFICIENT ECONOMY

11. Ensure that **targets and indicators will be proposed by 2014 addressing Europe's global impacts on land, water, carbon and material use supported by a combination of regulatory and market based instruments**, leading to an absolute reduction in Europe's resource consumption.

SUPPORT amendments: 223, 226, 229, 244 (if COMP5 falls), 251, 278, 284, 286, 288, 302, 322 (if COMP10 falls)	
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REJECT amendments: 225, 228, 249, 277, 320 (if COMP10 falls), 325	
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12. Support and strengthen ambitious climate and energy policies, in particular the adoption of three binding targets for 2030 for energy savings, renewables and climate.

SUPPORT amendments: COMP4, COMP13, COMP14, AM 94, 233 (if COMP4 falls), 236, 239, 242, 282 (if COMP13 falls), 297 (if COMP14 falls)	
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REJECT amendments: 79, 124, 130, 221, 222, 231 (if COMP4 falls), 237, 238, 240, 241, 281 (if COMP13 falls), 295 (if COMP14 falls), 296 (if COMP14 falls), 402, 403	
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13. Support a **more efficient use of biomass based on an assessment of overall availabilities**, establishing a cascading use principle and supporting measures, securing that **overall amounts of biomass used for all sectors are limited to what can be supplied sustainably by ecosystems without degrading biodiversity**.

SUPPORT amendments: 235 (if COMP4 falls), 252, 318, 419	
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REJECT amendments: 224, 230, 232 (if COMP4 falls), 234 (if COMP4 falls), 326	
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14. Strengthen proposals to **develop a comprehensive product policy implementing a front runner approach**, in support of more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

SUPPORT amendments: COMP5, COMP8, 243 (if COMP5 falls), 245, 253, 304 (if COMP8 falls), 306 (if COMP8 falls), 307 (if COMP8 falls), 308	
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REJECT amendments: 247, 248, 254, 327	
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15. Support the **development of an EU sustainable food strategy outlining how the EU will reduce the resource use of its food supply chain with 20% by 2020. Food waste and wiser consumption choices should be the spearheads of this strategy** as these have the largest potential to achieve absolute decoupling. Under wiser consumption, priority should be given to **bringing current consumption of animal protein back within healthy diet recommendations**.

SUPPORT amendments: 250, 252	
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16. Strengthen existing waste policy by adopting new targets for prevention and re-use and increase the ambition of recycling targets.

SUPPORT amendments: COMP6, COMP7, COMP9, 266 (if COMP6 falls) and 269 (if COMP6 falls), 294 (if COMP7 falls), 309 (if COMP9 falls), 316 (if COMP9 falls), 317 (if COMP9 falls)	
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REJECT amendments: 262 (if COMP6 falls), 289 (if COMP7 falls), 290 (if COMP7 falls), 291 (if COMP7 falls), 292 (if COMP7 falls), 310 (if COMP9 falls), 311 (if COMP9 falls), 313 (if COMP9 falls), 314 (if COMP9 falls), 315 (if COMP9 falls)	
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IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH OF CITIZENS

17. **Include** measures to address all relevant environmental stressors including environmental noise and poor water quality and hygiene.

SUPPORT amendments: 332, 344, 325, 351



18. **Ensure EU's air policies will support attainment of World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended standards and address biodiversity impacts by reducing pressure on ecosystems from air pollutants.**

SUPPORT amendments: 41, 194, 207, 342, 343, 355



19. **Strengthen** proposals to improve chemical safety, in particular in relation to EDC's, nanomaterials and cocktail effects and ensure effective measures will be taken, leading a.o to the restriction of the most harmful substances.

SUPPORT amendments: COMP11, COMP12, 44, 118, 334, 335, 348, 349, 350, 357, 358 (if COMP11 falls), 359 (if COMP11 falls), 360 (if COMP11 falls), 362 (if COMP 11 falls), 398 (if COMP12 falls), 399 (if COMP12 falls), 404, 406, 408, 413, 420



REJECT amendments: 42, 43, 336, 347, 400 (if COMP12 falls)



DEFORESTATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF BIOMASS RESOURCES

20. Support amendments **fostering EU action against deforestation to fulfil the EU commitments from 2008 to pursue the goal of reducing gross tropical deforestation by at least 50% by 2020, compared to 2008 levels, and halting global forest loss by 2030.** This includes as well the promotion of sustainable management of biomass resources.

SUPPORT amendments: 4, 39, 288, 318, 419, 480, 499



EXTERNAL DIMENSION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

21. Ensure Europe proactively engages internationally in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss by leading by example and boosting efforts to implement all key multilateral environmental agreements well before 2020 whilst also contributing to climate and biodiversity financing.

SUPPORT amendments: 465, 467, 476, 484, 485, 487, 495, 499



REJECT amendments: 466, 470, 475, 483, 492, 497, 498



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