

DRAFT PROPOSALS – WORKING GROUP CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

CLUSTER I: AGRICULTURE, FOOD PRODUCTION, BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS, POLLUTION

OBJECTIVE 1:

Safe, sustainable, just, climate responsible, and affordable production of food, respecting sustainability principles, the environment, safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems, while ensuring food security:

MEASURES:

1. Promote effective environmentally and climate friendly agriculture and fishery in the EU and worldwide, including organic farming as well as other forms of innovative and sustainable farming, such as vertical farming, that allow to produce more food with less input whilst reducing emissions and environmental impact but still guaranteeing high productivity and food security (P3 – 2, P3 -10, P2 – 4, P3 – 1)
2. Redirect subsidies and strengthen incentives towards organic farming and sustainable agriculture which comply with clear environmental standards and help achieving the global climate goals (P3 – 1, 12)
3. Apply circular economy principles in agriculture and promote measures against food waste (WG, MDP)
4. Significantly reduce the use chemical pesticides and fertilizers, in line with the existing targets, while still ensuring food security, and support for research to develop more sustainable and natural based alternatives (P3 – 10, WG)
5. Introduce a certification of carbon removals, based on robust, solid and transparent carbon accounting (January Plenary)
6. Food production and biodiversity protection as part of education, including the advantage of unprocessed over processed food, and promoting school gardens, subsidizing urban gardening projects and vertical farming. (P3 – 5, P 1 – 18)
7. More research and innovations, including in technological solutions for sustainable production, plant resistance, and precision farming, and more communication, advisory systems, and training for farmers (P3-10, WG March, January Plenary)
8. Eliminate social dumping and enhance a just and green transition to better jobs, with high quality safety, health and working conditions, in the agriculture sector (WG)
9. Address aspects such as plastic use in agricultural films and ways to reduce water consumption in agriculture (MDP)
10. Reasoned breeding and meat production with a focus on animal welfare and sustainability, using measures such as clear labelling, high standard and common norms for animal farming and transport, strengthening the link between breeding and feeding (P3-16, P3-30)

OBJECTIVE 2:

Protect and restore biodiversity and the landscape, and eliminate pollution

MEASURES:

1. Create, restore, better manage, and extend protected areas – for the conservation of biodiversity (FR, P3 – 11)
2. Have in place a coercion and reward system to tackle pollution, which should also be embedded in taxation measures, combined with increasing awareness and incentives (P3 – 32, FR, January Plenary)
3. Enhance the role of municipalities in urban planning and construction of new buildings supporting blue-green infrastructure, avoid and stop further sealing of land and obligatory green spaces of new constructions, in order to promote biodiversity and urban forests (P3 - 5, P1-18, FR)
4. Protect insects, in particular indigenous and pollinating insects, including through protection against invasive species and better enforcement of existing regulation (P1 – 18)
5. Support reforestation and afforestation, including forests lost by fire, and support better use of wood replacing other materials. Set binding national targets across the EU Member States for reforestation of native trees and local flora (P3 – 14, P1 – 18)
6. Enforce and extend the ban on single use plastics (MDP)
7. Combat ocean and river pollution, including through promotion of environmentally friendly shipping by using best available technologies, and fighting microplastic pollution (MDP)
8. Limit light pollution (WG)

CLUSTER II: CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, TRANSPORT

OBJECTIVE 3:

Enhance European energy security, and strengthen the EU's energy independence while ensuring a just transition, and providing Europeans with sufficient, affordable and sustainable energy. Tackle climate change, with the EU playing a role of global leader in sustainable energy policy, and respecting the global climate goals:

MEASURES:

1. Speed up the green transition, including through more investments in renewable energy, in order to reduce external energy dependency (WG)
2. Reduce dependencies from oil and gas imports through energy efficiency projects, support of affordable public transport, high-speed rail and freight network, expansion of clean and renewable energy provision (P4 – 2, P1 – 10, FR, DE)
3. Improve and maintain the quality of electrical infrastructure and the electrical grid, enhancing safety and enabling the transition to renewable energy courses (P1 – 10)
4. Consider within energy policies the geopolitical and security implications, including human rights, ecological aspect and good governance and rule of law, of all third country energy suppliers (WG)
5. Invest in renewables technologies, such as efficient use of green hydrogen, especially in sectors which are difficult to electrify (P3 – 31, WG)

6. Invest in the exploration of new eco-friendly sources of energy and storage methods and, until tangible solutions are found, additional investment into existing optimal solutions of energy production and storage (P3 – 9, P3 - 31)
7. Make CO2 filters mandatory for coal power plants, and provide financial aid to Member States that do not have financial resources to implement the CO2 filters.(P3 – 29)
8. Ensure a just transition, through adequate funding for the transition and further research, through reform of the tax system with fairer taxation and anti-tax fraud measures, and through ensuring inclusive governance approach in policy making at all levels (e.g. ambitious measures to reskill/upskills, strong social protection, keeping public service in public hands, safeguarding occupational health and safety rules) (Plenary, WG, MDP)
9. Introduce an investment package for climate-friendly technologies and innovations, which should be financed through climate-related import tariffs and climate related carbon adjustment levies (DE)
10. After a transition period, fossil fuels should no longer be subsidized and there should be no funding for traditional gas infrastructure (WG)
11. Increase EU's leadership and taking a stronger role and responsibility to promote ambitious climate action, a just transition, and support to address the loss and damages, in the international framework with the United Nations at the centre (NL, WG)

OBJECTIVE 4:

Provide high quality, modern, green, and safe infrastructure, ensuring connectivity, including of rural areas, in particular through affordable public transport:

MEASURES:

1. Support public transport and develop a European public transportation network especially in rural areas, which is efficient, reliable and affordable, with extra incentives for public transportation usage (P3 – 36, P4 - 2)
2. Invest in high-speed and night trains, and set single standard of railroad ecofriendly technology in Europe, to provide a credible alternative and facilitate the possibility to replace and discourage short distance flights (WG, MDP)
3. Promote the purchase, bearing in mind the affordability for households, and promote (shared) use of electric vehicles complying with good standard of battery life, as well as investments in the necessary recharging infrastructure, and investments in the development of other non-polluting technologies for those vehicles whose electrification is difficult to achieve (P3 – 38).
4. Develop high speed internet and mobile network connectivity in rural and island regions (P3 – 36)
5. Improve existing transportation infrastructure from an ecological point of view (P3- 37)
6. Require urban development programs for “greener” cities with lower emissions, with dedicated car-free zones in cities, without harming commercial areas (P3 - 6)
7. Improve infrastructure for cycling, and give further rights and enhanced legal protection to cyclists and pedestrians including in case of accidents with motorised

- vehicles, guaranteeing road safety and providing training on road traffic rules (P3 – 4).
8. Regulate the mining of cryptocurrencies, which are using an enormous amount of electricity (MDP)

CLUSTER III: SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION, PACKAGING AND PRODUCTION

OBJECTIVE 5:

Enhance the use and management of materials within the EU in order to become more circular, more autonomous, and less dependent. Build a circular economy by promoting sustainable EU products and production. Ensure all products placed on the EU market comply with common EU environmental standards:

MEASURES:

1. Stricter and harmonised production standards within the EU and a transparent labelling system for all products sold on the EU market regarding their sustainability/environmental footprint, as well as longevity, using a QR-code and eco-score, or the Digital Product Passport (P3 – 8, 13, 20, 21)
2. Review global supply chains, including in agricultural production, in order to reduce dependency of the EU and shorten the chains (MDP)
3. Further avoid waste by setting prevention and reuse targets and setting quality standards for waste sorting systems (WG, FR)
4. Phase-out non-sustainable form of packaging, regulate environmentally-safe packaging, and avoid wasting of material in packaging, through financial incentives and penalties, and investing in research into alternatives (P3 – 15, 25, P1 – 12, P4 – 16)
5. Introduce EU wide packaging deposit return scheme and advanced standards for containers (P3 – 22, 23, MDP)
6. Launch an EU knowledge platform on how to use and “repair” products (P3 – 20)
7. Introduce measures to tackle planned obsolescence, ensure longer warranties, promote a right to repair, and ensure availability of compatible spare parts (P3 – 20, FR, DE, P1 – 14)
8. Establish a secondary raw materials market, also by considering requirements for percentages of recycled content (WG)
9. Rapid implementation of the EU Sustainable Textile Strategy and setting up a mechanism ensuring consumers can be aware the product meets sustainable criteria (P3 – 28, WG)
10. Take EU actions that enable and incentivize consumers to use products longer (P 3 - 20)
11. Increase environmental standards, and enforce compliance, related to export of waste both within the EU and to third countries (P4 – 15, MDP)
12. Introduce measures to limit advertising of products that are environmentally damaging, introducing a mandatory disclaimer for products that are particularly harmful for the environment (P3 – 22)

13. Stricter manufacturing standards and fair working conditions throughout the entire production chain (P3-21)

CLUSTER IV: INFORMATION, AWARENESS, DIALOGUE AND LIFE-STYLE

OBJECTIVE 6:

Foster knowledge, awareness, education, and dialogues on environment, climate change, energy use, and sustainability:

MEASURES:

1. Create an interactive fact-checked information platform, with regularly updated and diverse scientific environmental information (P3 - 33)
2. Support information campaigns on eco-awareness, including a long-term EU campaign for sustainable consumption and lifestyle. (DE, NL, FR, P3 – 7)
3. Promote and facilitate dialogue and consultations between all levels of decision making, especially with youth and at the local level (DE, NL, FR, P3 – 27, 35, Plenary)
4. The development by the EU, with assistance of Member States, of a common European charter targeting environmental issues and fostering environmental awareness among all citizens (P3 - 7).
5. Provide educational courses and teaching materials for all, in order to increase climate and sustainability literacy and to enable lifelong learning on environmental topics (P1 – 15, 35, P3 - 24, WG)
6. Make biodiversity a mandatory subject in schools and raise awareness for biodiversity through the use of media campaigns and incentivised ‘competitions’ across the EU (local community scale competitions) (P1 – 18)
7. Strengthen the role and action of the EU in the area of environment and education, by extending the EU’s competence in the area of education in the area of climate change and environment and extending the use of qualified majority decision-making on topics identified as being of ‘European interest’, such as environment (NL, FR)
8. Promote a plant-based diet on the grounds of climate protection and the preservation of the environment (MDP)