

Future PolicyShapers Programme • Vienna –Resolution

Disclaimer: This is not an official document. This document was a product from the discussions among the participants of the training “Future PolicyShapers Programme” which was organized in Vienna, Austria by the European Multidisciplinary Organization for Training and international Consulting, with the support of the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe. The aim of this training program was teaching the participants about policymaking tools and instruments and putting these into practice through simulating a not-existing committee that resembles a European democratic institution.

Committee: The European Union Environment Programme

Topic: In the search of joint actions and implementation to fight climate change and achieve sustainability

The European Union Environmental Programme,

Concerned of the current climate crisis which triggered i.e., floods, landslides, and heat waves in Europe,

Underlining the urgency to take homogeneous actions in order to mitigate future climate catastrophes,

Recalling its 1st Environmental Action Programme (EAP1) covering the period from 1972 to 1977, the 2nd Environmental Action Programme (EAP2) carried out from 1978 to 1981, the 3rd Environmental Action Programme (EAP3) covering the period of 1982-1986, the 4th Environmental Action Programme (EAP4) in the period of 1986-1992, the 5th Environmental Action Programme (EAP5) developed for 1992-1999, the 6th Environment Action Programme (EAP6) covered 2002-2012, the 7th Environment Action Programme (EAP7) ran from 2013 to 2020 and other decisions relating to the protection of the global climate and achieving massive use of sustainable energy resources,

Recalling also the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement adopted within this Convention that these are international and intergovernmental accords in response to tackling climate change and its consequences,

Appealing to the European Green Deal that the decarbonization of the European energy system is key to achieve the goals set to 2030 and the carbon neutrality set to 2050,

Taking note of the important process realized at the Glasgow Climate Change Conference (GCCC) to advance the climate change priorities of Member States,

Underlining the importance of the inclusion of the Industrial development policy in the transition to a sustainable global economy, industry is recognized by the 2030 Agenda, particularly by SDG 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” as inclusive and sustainable industrialization has strong ramifications for most, if not all, other SDGs,

Realizing the differences in the needs and issues of the respective European Union (EU) Member States, as well as disparities concerning wealth,

Acknowledging the need for energy autonomy and energy independence of the Union vis-à-vis non-Members,

Concerned about the energy efficiency when adopting renewable energies,

Conscious of differences in the economic and technological capabilities of the Member States, especially when it comes to the fulfillment of the renewable energy targets,

Reconfirming the effort to strengthen the common market,

Having examined the need for a common definition of sustainable energy to make this resolution enforceable and prevent ambiguities,

Expressing its utmost concern of climate change being a major threat to sustainable development,

1. *Establishes* that fossil fuels, in particular oil, natural gas and coal, are neither regarded as forms of sustainable nor as forms of renewable energy;
2. *Asks* for the implementation of a National Sustainable Energy Action Plan (NSEAP) so as to encourage all Member States to explain how national overall sustainable energy targets can and will be reached by the year 2030;
3. *Recognizes* that international and inter-governmental action has been successful through nationally determined contributions (NDCs) established by the Paris Agreement and tools like NDCs show us that more of the new regulations must be included on the national government level as well as the involvement of all stakeholders on both local and global levels;
4. *Strongly emphasizes supporting* the building a strategic framework to enhance the coordination of the EU administrative capacities in regards to environmental policy:
 - a. Stronger mechanisms for coordination and cooperation with National Ministries for Environment and continuous control of environmental standards which then requires more bureaucracy on both national and EU level;
 - b. Further recommends the creation of a control body to monitor the Member States implementation of the Resolution and their binding national goals;
 - i. The control body has the right to enforce penalties in case of failure to meet targets;
 - ii. The control body has the right to publish airports on the progress of the Member States;
5. *Deplores* the lack of financial support towards Sustainable and Renewable Energy tools at European level;
6. *Encourages* the creation of an E.U. investment plan to financially support:
 - a. The storage of sustainable energy;
 - b. The following sustainable energy technologies in all Member States:
 - i. Photovoltaic installations,
 - ii. Solar water heaters,
 - iii. Biomass,
 - iv. Biogas,
 - v. Wind turbines,
 - vi. Hydro power (excluding frequent building of the Small Hydropower Plants),
 - vii. Geothermal Energy,
 - viii. Biofuels,
 - ix. Alternative energy sources;
7. *Requires* the higher GDP countries to help the lower GDP nations with their transition to greener and more sustainable energy;

8. *Further recommends* to guarantee energy independence from non-Member states;
9. *Recognizes* and supports the common ground of adopting renewable energy sources linked to each Member State's accessibility to the resource and maximum profit for each State and the European Union as a whole;
10. *Stresses* its readiness to share its experience and knowledge about the implementation of alternative energy sources with fellow Member States;
11. *Reiterates* its request to access valuable information from the most developed Member States in terms of sustainable energy transition, so that no Member State is left behind;
12. *Demands* a more flexible and fair approach while adhering to common goals and commitments;
13. *Reminds* that the independence of Member states from Non-Member states is highly dependent on a fulfilled integration of the European countries in the EU;
14. *Notes with concern* that the current 2030 target of the European Union regarding the share of renewable / sustainable energy with being at least at 32%, is definitely not aligned with the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1,5° and maximum 2° degrees compared to pre-industrial temperature levels through the following strategies:
 - a. Urges Member States to strive for a more ambitious EU-wide 2030 target for renewable / sustainable energy and proposes to target at least 45%;
 - b. Recommends to set a goal of 75% of electricity from renewable energy sources by 2030, and by 2050, increasing this renewable energy reliance in the electricity sector to 100%;
 - c. Directs attention that the renewable energy targets mentioned in the clauses 14(a) and 14(b) represent EU-wide targets and therefore allow for differences between the Member States;
 - d. Recalls that the Member States have to provide their legally binding national goals for 2030 by June 30th 2022 and the sum of those contributions has to add up to the EU-wide goals for 2030 and 2040 from subclauses 14a and 14b;
 - e. Suggests that Member States provide their legally binding national goals regarding renewable energy anonymously to the EU, in order to allow for potential even more ambitious outcomes;
 - f. Stresses that the process will be repeated every quartal if the added up national goals of the Member States fail to meet the EU-wide targets;
 - g. Further proclaims that citizens of Member States are entitled to assert compliance of their government with their national goals if they fail to fulfill their own national goals through civil courts;
15. *Pays special tribute* to the importance of a citizen oriented, participative energy transition, where the needs and realities of the European citizens are considered and built the fundament of the policies:
 - a. Emphasizes the meaning of Renewable Energy Communities (REC) which became legally implementable due to the RED ii 2018/2001;
 - b. Reaffirms its belief that RECs can unleash the potential and dynamic of citizen led energy initiatives, incentivize private investments in the field of renewable energies and foster the development towards a more local, decentralized and citizen led energy system;
16. *Recognizes* that the focus is not only on reducing the use of fossil fuels and the greenhouse gas emissions caused by them, but also increasing the share of renewable energy;

17. *Firmly convinced* that the EU CO₂ emission standards have to specifically define what information should companies share with investors and broader society, by creating a global standard setting structure for climate-related disclosures which would enable to compare and assess firms and regulate emissions trading;
18. *Recommends* funding for the region's reconstruction of lower industrial developed nations in order to achieve a fair and ambitious coal phase-out by 2030 and make a transition to renewable energies possible;
19. *Acknowledges* that because renewable energy is more expensive than conventional energy, energy prices must be kept low to encourage the use of it as it saves money due to its efficiency and sustainability in the long term;
20. *Declares* the adoption of closing the coal mines and redirecting mining employees to clean energy jobs;
21. *Further recommends* that kerosine, marked gas oil, liquid petroleum gas, fuel oil, natural gas and solid fuels will be taxed (with the carbon tax per tonne) by the following:
 - a. The taxation rate should be based on the country's average income;
 - b. Companies who are based in one country but produce in another should pay the tax based on the income of their main seat, to circumvent companies relocating their production to avoid higher taxation rates;
22. *Resolves* to phase out subsidizing coal power plants by 2035 via all state institutions, including private entities such as funds that are government-related via stocks or shares held by the state;
23. *Expresses its support* to use taxes as an incentive to push renewable energy;
 - a. Supports the enhancement of green taxes through a comprehensive green strategy that includes:
 - i. Cuts to fossil fuel subsidies;
 - ii. Green tax incentives;
 - iii. Energy and environmental tax rises;
 - b. Recommends any tax increases should emphasize the tax component based on CO₂ content;
24. *Expresses (its) belief* that EU needs to be less dependent on imports, and strengthen the common market through the following:
 - a. An additional 3% carbon-tax on imported goods from outside the EU;
 - b. A carbon tax on fossil fuels;
 - c. Linked percentage-wise to the average income in a Member State;
25. *Urges* Member States to find sustainable solutions for mid- and long-distance traveling as well as commuting as the European Union counts 569 passenger cars per 1,000 inhabitants on average, which needs to be reduced consequently;
26. *Affirms* that all sufficiently determined clauses of this Resolution are directly enforceable in each Member State and liability from non-compliance with such clauses cannot be inhibited by pleas of state immunity;
27. *Congratulates* all of the Member States' contributions to the achievement of the common goals for the development and implementation of a more sustainable renewable energy system that will contribute to the EU's carbon neutrality goals;
28. *Recognizing* that this method of identifying and pursuing joint action to achieve common goals encourages the other committee members to join and implement effective reforms and therefore expects future debates.