



2018/2974(RSP)

20.2.2019

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Questions for Oral Answer B8-0000/2019 and B8-0000/2019

pursuant to Rule 128(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on the strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction in
accordance with the Paris Agreement
(2018/2974(RSP))

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Safety

European Parliament resolution on the strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction in accordance with the Paris Agreement (2018/2974(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Communication from the Commission ‘A Clean Planet for all - A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern competitive and climate neutral economy’ (COM(2018)773)¹
- having regard to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,
- having regard to the Paris Agreement, Decision 1/CP.21, to the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC and to the 11th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP11), held in Paris, France from 30 November to 11 December 2015,
- having regard to the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the UNFCCC, the 14th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP14), and the third part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1.3), held in Katowice, Poland, from 2 December to 14 December 2018,
- having regard to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- having regard to its resolution of 25 October 2018 on the 2018 UN Climate Change Conference in Katowice, Poland (COP24)²,
- having regard to the European Council conclusions of 22 March 2018,
- having regard to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report entitled ‘Global Warming of 1,5°C’, its 5th Assessment Report (AR5) and its Synthesis Report,
- having regard to the 9th edition of the UN Environment Emissions Gap Report, adopted on 27 November 2018,
- having regard to the questions to the Council and to the Commission on the strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction in accordance with the Paris

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank A Clean Planet for all A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy adopted on 28 November 2018, COM(2018)773.

² Texts adopted, P8_TA-PROV(2018)0430.

Agreement (O-000000/2019 – B8-0000/2019 and O-000000/2019 – B8-0000/2019),

- having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety,
 - having regard to Rules 128(5) and 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - whereas COP24 in Katowice resulted in adoption of the Katowice Rulebook which provides for legal clarity in implementing the Paris Agreement;
1. Highlights that European citizens already face direct impacts of climate change; underlines that, according to the European Environment Agency, average annual losses caused by weather and climate-related extremes in the Union amounted to around €12.8 billion between 2010 and 2016, and that, if no further action is taken, climate damages in the EU could amount to at least €190 billion by 2080, equivalent to a net welfare loss of 1.8% of its current GDP; emphasises that under a high emissions scenario annual costs from flooding in the EU could go up to EUR 1 trillion by 2100 and that weather-related disasters could affect about two-thirds of European citizens by 2100, compared with 5% today; further stresses that, according to the European Environment Agency, 50% of the populated areas in the EU will suffer from severe water scarcity by 2030;
 2. Recalls the November 2018 Eurobarometer findings of 93% of Europeans considering climate change to be caused by human activity, and 85% agreeing that fighting climate change and using energy more efficiently can create economic growth and jobs in Europe; notes that climate change is a high priority issue for people in Europe;
 3. Underlines that the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C represents the most comprehensive and up-to-date scientific assessment of mitigation pathways in line with the Paris Agreement;
 4. Emphasises that, according to the IPCC 1.5 Special report, limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot implies reaching net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions globally by 2067 at the latest, and to reduce annual global GHG emissions by 2030 to a maximum of 27.4 GtCO₂eq per year; stresses that, in light of these findings, as a global leader and in order to have a safe chance of keeping global temperature below 1.5°C by 2100, the Union needs to strive towards reaching net-zero GHG emissions as early as possible and by 2050 at the latest;
 5. Expresses concern at the UN 2018 Environment Emissions Gap Report, which finds that current unconditional Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) far surpass the Paris Agreement warming limit of well below 2°C, leading instead to an estimated 3.2°C³ warming by 2100; stresses the urgency of all Parties to increase their climate ambition by 2020;
 6. Welcomes the publication of the Commission Communication "A Clean Planet for all – A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy"; endorses the objective of net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 and urges the Member States to do the same as part of the future Europe debate, at the

³ UNEP "The Emissions Gap Report 2018", p.10

special EU summit in Sibiu in May 2019;

Pathways for the European mid-century zero emissions strategy

7. Notes that the strategy presents eight pathways for the economic, technological and social transformation needed for the Union to comply with the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement; notes that only two of them would enable the Union to reach net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 at the latest; highlights that this requires swift action and considerable efforts from the local and regional levels to the national and European ones also involving all non-public actors; recognises that Regional Determined Contributions and Local Determined Contributions could be important tools in bridging the emission gap; recalls the obligation of Member States to adopt national long-term strategies as laid down in the Governance Regulation; therefore, calls on the Member States to put in place clear short and long-term targets and policies consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement and to provide investment support for net-zero pathways;
8. Highlights that the first category of pathways aims at reducing GHG emissions by only around 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels; notes with concern that such ambition represents the lower range of holding global warming below 2°C and is therefore not in line with the Paris objective of holding global temperature rise to well below 2°C, nor with the further aim of keeping it below 1.5°C;
9. Points that according to Commission's estimates the EU GDP is expected to increase more under zero emissions scenarios than in scenarios with lower emission reductions, with the effects in both cases being spread unevenly across the EU due to differences among Member States, inter alia in terms of GDP per capita and carbon intensity of energy mix; considers that non-action would be by far the costliest scenario and would not only result in massive GDP loss in Europe, but also further increase economic inequalities between and within Member States and regions as some are expected to be harder hit than others by the consequences of inaction;
10. Notes with concern that the EU's energy import dependence today is around 55%; highlights that under a net-zero emissions scenario this would fall to 20% by 2050, positively impacting the EU's trade balance and geopolitical position; notes that the cumulative savings in fossil fuel import costs between 2031-2050 would be EUR 2-3 trillion, which could be spent on other priorities of European citizens;
11. Highlights that reduced air pollution under a net-zero emissions scenario would cut premature deaths from fine particulate matter by more than 40%; notes that under such a scenario health damages would be reduced by around EUR 200 billion per year;
12. Welcomes the inclusion of two pathways aiming at reaching net zero GHG emissions by 2050 and the Commission's support for these, and considers this mid-century objective as the only one compatible with the Union's commitments under the Paris Agreement, regrets that no net-zero GHG pathways before 2050 were considered in the strategy;
13. Notes that those pathways include the use of a number of carbon removal technologies, including through carbon capture and storage or usage and direct air capture, that have

yet to be deployed on a large scale; considers however that the EU net-zero strategy should prioritise direct emissions reductions and actions conserving and enhancing the EU's natural sinks and reservoirs, and should only aim for the use of carbon removal technologies where no direct emission reduction options are available; believes that further action by 2030 is needed if the Union is to avoid relying on carbon removal technologies that would entail significant risks for ecosystems, biodiversity and food security as also confirmed by the IPCC 1.5 report;

14. Stresses that until the feasibility of those technologies is proven, any pathway towards 2050 should be based on the commercial availability of key transition technologies whilst taking into account different starting points among Member States by supporting just transition in the most carbon intensive regions and reducing emissions in all emitting sectors;

Social aspects of climate change and just transition

15. Welcomes that the Commission finds that net-zero emissions are possible without net job losses and takes positively note of the detailed assessment of the transition in the energy intensive industry; highlights that, if handled well with the appropriate support for the most vulnerable regions, sectors and citizens, a just transition towards net-zero GHG emissions has the potential to create a net gain of jobs in the Union - economy-wide employment will increase by 2.1 million additional jobs by 2050 under a net-zero emissions scenario compared to a employment increase of 1.3 million additional jobs under the 80% emission reduction scenario; therefore considers that the Commission should develop a renewed skills audit under the EU Skills Panorama with regional data on the skills needs for a climate neutral Europe to support these most vulnerable regions, sectors and people in re-skilling for future-proof quality jobs in the same regions;
16. Highlights that the transition needs to be just for all parts of society; notes that this requires an understanding of just transition that incorporates negative and positive impacts associated with accelerated climate action, such as job losses and new employment opportunities, as well as the impacts from delaying climate action;
17. Stresses the numerous co-benefits a climate-neutral society will have on public health, both in terms of prevented health costs and strains on insurance and public health systems, as well as on the general well-being of European citizens due to enhanced biodiversity, reductions in air pollution and mitigated exposure to pollutants;
18. Believes that Europe's climate transition must be ecologically, economically and socially sustainable; stresses that, in order to ensure political acceptance by all citizens, it is important to take into account the distributional effects of climate-related and decarbonisation policies, specifically on people with low income; therefore considers that social impacts should be fully taken into consideration in all EU and national climate policies with a view to ensuring a social and ecological transformation in Europe; emphasises in this respect that tailor-made and sufficiently funded strategies at all levels will need to be designed on the basis of inclusive processes and in close collaboration with local and regional public authorities, trade unions, educational institutions, civil society organisations and the private sector, to ensure fair and equal

opportunities are offered to all European citizens in this transition;

19. Recalls that approximately 50 to 125 million European citizens are currently at risk of energy poverty⁴; highlights that the energy transition can disproportionately affect people with low incomes and further increase energy poverty; recognises that energy policy must incorporate the social dimension and ensure no one is left behind; calls on the Member States to take forward-looking actions to ensure a just energy transition and access to energy for all EU citizens;
20. Believes that young people have increasingly strong social and environmental awareness, which has the power to transform our societies towards a climate resilient future, and that youth education represents one of the most effective tools to combat climate change; stresses the need to actively involve younger generations in building international, intercultural and intergenerational relationships, which underpin cultural change that will support the global efforts for a more sustainable future;
21. Welcomes that people across Europe are becoming increasingly active in demonstrating for climate justice, in particular through school strikes; welcomes the calls from these activists for stronger ambition and believes that national, regional and local governments as well as the EU should heed these calls;
22. Emphasises that inclusion and participation of Europe's citizens is vital for Europe to reach net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 at the latest; encourages all levels of national, regional and local government to put in place concrete measures stimulating and facilitating the participation of citizens in the transition to the decarbonised society;

Intermediate targets

23. Recognises that the 2020-2030 decade is the most important one if the EU is to reach net-zero by 2050; calls on the Commission and the Member States to support a strong medium-term target for 2030, as this is necessary to bring sufficient stability for investments to the market and to fully harness the potential of technological innovation and strengthen the possibilities for Europe's businesses' to become global market leaders in low-emission production;
24. Stresses that reaching net-zero GHG emissions in 2050 in the most cost-efficient manner, requires raising and aligning the 2030 ambition level with net-zero 2050 scenarios; believes it is of utmost importance that the Union sends a clear message, at the latest during the UN Climate Summit in New York in September 2019, that it stands ready to review its contribution to the Paris Agreement;
25. Supports an update of the Union's NDC with an economy-wide target of 55% domestic GHG emission reductions by 2030 compared with 1990 levels; calls therefore on EU leaders to support raising the level of ambition of the Union's NDC accordingly at the special EU Summit in Sibiu in May 2019, in view of the UN Climate Summit in September 2019;

⁴ [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/563472/IPOL_STU\(2015\)563472_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/563472/IPOL_STU(2015)563472_EN.pdf)

26. Points to the impact the ETS reform has had on EU emission allowances prices and that confidence in the system has been re-established;
27. Considers therefore that the Commission should, at the latest, during the 2022-2024 reviews of the 2030 climate package and other relevant legislation, present legislative proposals raising the ambition level in line with the updated NDC and the net-zero emissions target; believes that insufficient 2030 ambition would limit future options, possibly limiting the availability of some options for cost-efficient decarbonisation; considers these reviews to be an important milestone for securing the EU climate commitments;
28. Believes that, as a means to further ensure increased stability for markets, it will be beneficial for the EU to also establish a further interim emissions reduction target by 2040 that can provide additional stability and ensure that the long-term 2050 target is met;
29. Considers it necessary to review the EU's net-zero emission strategy regularly, while such a review should be informed by the 5-yearly global stocktake as set out in the Paris Agreement, and take into account technological and societal developments as well as input of non-state actors and the European Parliament;

Sectoral contribution

30. Emphasises that net emissions will have to be reduced close to zero in all sectors of the economy which should all contribute in the joint efforts to reduce emissions; calls therefore on the Commission to develop pathways to climate neutrality for all sectors; stresses the importance of the polluter pays principle in this regard;
31. Stresses the importance to adopt an integrated, cross-sectoral approach in order to facilitate decarbonisation efforts across the energy system and other associated sectors and benefit from increased efficiencies; recognises that energy systems integration can provide higher flexibility, improved system efficiency, higher uptake of renewable energy across all energy carriers, and ultimately a cost-effective energy transition;
32. Highlights the role of the energy intensive industries in achieving the long-term EU greenhouse gas reductions; considers that maintaining EU's low carbon industrial leadership and industrial production in the EU, preserving the competitiveness of European industries and avoiding the risk of carbon leakage necessitates intelligent and targeted policy frameworks; calls on the Commission to present a new and integrated EU industrial climate strategy for energy intensive industries in support of a competitive net-zero emission heavy industry transition;
33. Calls on the Commission to develop an industrial strategy with measures that allow the European industry to compete globally on a level-playing field; considers that as part of this policy the Commission should examine the effectiveness and WTO-compatibility of additional measures to protect industries at risk of carbon leakage in respect of the imports of products, which would replace, adapt or complement any existing measures on carbon leakage;
34. Recalls that by being the first major economy to go for climate neutrality, Europe's

businesses will be able to gain first-mover advantage on international markets to become the global leader in sustainable and resource-efficient production; emphasises that delayed or insufficient action to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050 at the latest will result in ecologically, economically and socially unjustifiable costs and effectively hamper the future competitiveness of Europe's industrial sector;

35. Notes that a number of emerging markets are positioning themselves to play an important role in meeting the needs of the global market during the transition to a net-zero emissions economy, for instance with regard to zero-emissions transport and renewable energy; stresses that the EU must remain the leading economy in green innovation and investments in green technology;
36. Notes that the European Commission 2018 report on energy prices and costs in Europe highlights the ongoing high exposure of the EU to volatile and increasing fossil fuel prices and that future electricity production costs are expected to increase for fossil fuel-generated electricity and fall for renewables; stresses that EU energy import costs increased in 2017 by 26% to EUR 266 billion, mainly due to increasing oil prices; the report estimates that oil price increases has had a negative impact on EU growth (-0.4% GDP in 2017) and on inflation (+0.6);
37. Highlights the importance of and encourages innovation in a wide range of technologies in order to decarbonise the economy, such as zero-emissions transport, the circular economy and the bio-economy;
38. Recalls that 71% of all energy is used for space heating alone; agrees with the Commission that energy-efficient homes will become the norm in a climate neutral EU, delivering better health and comfort for all Europeans;
39. Calls for a harmonisation of carbon and energy pricing in the EU in support of the transition to a net-zero emissions economy, in particular for sectors not covered by the EU's emissions trading system;
40. Highlights the central role of renewable energy sources in the transition towards a net-zero GHG economy, as energy is currently responsible for 75% of Europe's GHG emissions;
41. Considers that technology developments and solutions, energy efficiency in both supply and demand and sustainable renewable energy in the transport, buildings, heating and cooling, and power sectors, and circular economy principles will all be key in reducing GHG emissions; underlines in this respect the importance of technology-specific strategies;
42. Stresses that emissions from industrial processes have to be tackled at a much larger scale; points out that according to the IPCC 1.5 Special Report CO₂ emissions reduction from industry need to be 65–90% lower in 2050 relative to 2010, and such reductions can only be achieved through combinations of new and existing technologies, including carbon capture, utilisation and storage;
43. Calls for a highly energy efficient and renewable-based energy system and asks the Commission and the Member States to take all necessary action in that regard as it will

have spill-over effects across all economic sectors; highlights that all pathways assume full decarbonisation of the power sector by 2050 at the latest, a drastic reduction of fossil fuels and a strong increase in renewable energies;

44. Highlights the contribution of energy efficiency to security of supply, economic competitiveness, environmental protection as well as to the reduction of energy bills and the improvement of the quality of homes; confirms the important role of energy efficiency in the creation of business opportunities and employment as well as its global and regional benefits; recalls therefore that the Energy Efficiency First principle has been introduced by the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and its application should be fully exploited throughout the full energy chain and considered as a basis for any pathway towards 2050 net-zero target;
45. Acknowledges the role of CCS attributed in the IPCC 1.5C Special Report in most 1.5C scenarios; stresses the need for the EU to develop stronger ambition in this area; further notes the targets set by Member States under the strategic energy technology (SET) Plan to implement commercial scale CCS in the European energy and industrial sector in the 2020s; considers it necessary to increase the use in industrial processes of environmentally safe carbon capture and utilisation storage (CCU and CCS) delivering a net reduction in emissions and avoidance or permanent storage of CO₂; notes with concern that at present many CCU technologies do not deliver permanent emission reductions, therefore calls on the Commission to develop technical criteria which ensures support only to those technologies which deliver verifiable results;
46. Underlines that the Ecodesign Directive has contributed significantly to the EU's climate targets by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 320 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents annually and that it is estimated that by 2020 EU consumers will save a total of up to EUR 112 billion, or around EUR 490 per year per household a result of the Directive; calls for regulating additional products under the Ecodesign Directive, including tablets and smartphones, and for keeping existing standards up to date in order to reflect technological development;
47. Points out that electrification of the building, industry and transport sectors will play a key role in reducing the emissions of these sectors and will require a massive supply of electricity; underlines in this respect the importance of policies enabling the power industry to deliver sufficient, reliable and competitively priced carbon neutral electricity; urges the Commission to bring all stakeholders together in order to enable this transition;
48. Stresses the need to implement the Energy Union and the Clean Energy package without delay, and ensure further integration of the European Energy market in order to most effectively decarbonise the power sector, to facilitate investments where most renewable energy production can be achieved and to encourage the active participation of citizens in order to speed up the energy transition towards a carbon neutral and sustainable economy while reducing energy poverty; considers it essential to raise the level of interconnectivity between Member States including encouraging more cross-border support schemes;
49. Points out that the strategy confirms that GHG emissions from the transport sector are still on the rise, and that current policies will not be sufficient to decarbonise the

transport sector by 2050; underlines the importance of ensuring a modal shift from air to rail travel, and towards public transport and shared mobility; notes that road transport contributes to about one fifth of the EU's total emissions of carbon dioxide; therefore, calls upon the Member States and the Commission to take decisive steps to enable access to zero- and low-emission vehicles to consumers in all Member States while avoiding an increased uptake of old high-polluting vehicles in low-income Member States; further underlines the role of smart technologies such as smart charging infrastructure to establish synergies between electrification of transport and the deployment of renewable energy sources;

50. Underlines that in order to achieve climate neutrality for the EU economy as a whole, all sectors must contribute including international aviation and shipping; notes that the Commission's analysis shows that current global targets and measures foreseen respectively by IMO and ICAO, even if fully implemented, fall short of the necessary emissions reductions and that significant further action consistent with the economy-wide objective of net-zero emissions are needed; highlights the need for investments in zero- and low-carbon technologies and fuels in these sectors; calls on the Commission to bring the polluter-pays principle into practice in these sectors, in particular with regard to kerosene taxation and aviation ticket prices; recalls that GHG emissions from international shipping are projected to increase by as much as 250% by 2050; welcomes the fact that the international shipping sector has set itself an absolute reduction target for greenhouse gas emissions; notes with concern the lack of progress regarding the translation of this target into short and medium term measures and other concrete actions;
51. Calls on the Commission to propose as soon as possible a European Rail Agenda, including a framework for removing the barriers towards the swift realisation of an interoperable intra-EU high-speed rail network and mobilising enhanced investments in high-speed rail connections;
52. Notes that approximately 60% of the current global methane is emitted by sources such as agriculture, landfills and wastewater, and the production and pipeline transport of fossil fuels; recalls that methane is a potent GHG with a 100-year warming potential 28 times larger than CO₂⁵ and that methane emission reductions can play an important role in reducing ground-level ozone concentrations and their negative impacts on air quality and human health; welcomes the Commission's intention to reduce methane emissions in concerned sectors, which could deliver further reductions of ozone concentrations in the EU, and to promote methane reductions internationally;
53. Notes that the EU building sector currently accounts for 40% of Europe's final energy consumption and 36% of the CO₂ emissions⁶; calls for unlocking its energy savings potential and for carbon-footprint reduction, in consistency with the EPBD objective of reaching a highly energy efficient and decarbonised building stock by 2050; stresses that more efficient energy consumption in buildings constitutes a substantial potential for further reducing Europe's GHG emissions; further considers that the achievement of

⁵ Van Dingenen, R., Crippa, M., Maenhout, G., Guizzardi, D., Dentener, F., Global trends of methane emissions and their impacts on ozone concentrations, EUR 29394 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2018, ISBN 978-92-79-96550-0, doi:10.2760/820175, JRC113210

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/energy-efficiency/buildings>

low energy demand buildings, fully supplied by renewable energy, is a sine qua non for the Paris Agreement and for an EU agenda for growth, local jobs and improved living conditions for citizens across Europe;

54. Reiterates its call on the Commission to explore as soon as possible policy options for rapidly addressing methane emissions as part of a Union strategic plan for methane, and to present legislative proposals to the European Parliament and the Council to that effect; underlines that agriculture will become one of the main remaining sources of EU GHG emissions in 2050 due in particular to methane and nitrous oxide emissions; underlines the potential of the agricultural sector to tackle the challenges of climate change, for example by ecological and technological innovations as well as by carbon capture in soils;
55. Stresses the role of energy intensive industries both as actors and enablers of the transition; calls on the Commission to develop an EU industrial transformation framework to attract investments in low-carbon technologies and products development and to facilitate the necessary industrial pilots for breakthrough technologies on a commercial scale;
56. Calls for a Common Agricultural Policy that contributes to GHG emission reductions in line with the transition to a climate neutral economy; calls on the Commission to ensure that agricultural policies, in particular EU and national funds, are in line with the objectives and goals of the Paris Agreement;
57. Stresses the need to mainstream climate ambition into all EU policies, including trade policy; urges the Commission to ensure that all trade agreements signed by the EU are fully compatible with the Paris Agreement, as this would not only enhance global action on climate change but also guarantees a level-playing field for the affected sectors;
58. Underlines that the EU should promote the role and efforts of regions, cities and towns; calls on the Commission to build upon the work of EU Covenant of Mayors representing 200 million European citizens and to enable them to play a catalyst role for further transition;
59. Regrets that the possibility of strengthening EU action on fluorinated greenhouse gases has not been taken up in the Commission's strategy; stresses that preventing illegal HFC trade through the adoption of an HFC licensing system, prohibiting the use of HFCs in sectors that no longer need them, allocating HFC quotas via an auctioning system, and fully implementing the F-Gas Regulation by banning all unnecessary uses of SF₆, are clear opportunities to help the EU meet its Paris Agreement objectives;

Maximising the climate potential of forests in the context of a sustainable bioeconomy

60. Supports active and sustainable forest management at national level, together with concrete means to incentivise an efficient and sustainable EU bioeconomy, given the large potential of forests to contribute to strengthening Europe's climate efforts (through sequestration, storage and substitution effects) and achieving the target of zero emissions by 2050 at the latest; recognising the need of climate change adaptation and the need to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems services in

the EU by 2020; and develop evidence-based policies that help implement and finance EU biodiversity conservation measures;

61. Highlights the need to make sustainable forest management more commercially competitive and to support practical measures with significant storage and sequestration effects such as using timber as building material both in cities and rural areas, replacement of fossil fuels and as a tool for better water retention;
62. Recommends that a major effort should be focused on agriforestry and the very real gains to be made - ecologically and in biodiversity - in the incorporation of trees and various vegetation into working farmland;
63. Recognises the positive, but ultimately limited potential for afforestation in Europe; therefore, believes that afforestation initiatives must be complemented by concrete initiatives and incentives aiming to enhance the sequestration potential, while securing and enhancing the health of existing forest lands in order to reap benefits for the climate, the sustainable bio-economy and the biodiversity; supports, therefore, the afforestation of abandoned and marginally productive agricultural land, agriforestry and the minimisation of conversion of forest areas to other land uses;
64. Points out that EU action and policies have an impact also on natural sinks, land and forests outside of Europe and that the EU net-zero emission strategy should prevent harmful climate effects of EU action in third countries; calls on the Commission and the Member States, in this regard, to advocate for robust international rules in the framework of the Paris Rulebook, especially relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to prevent loopholes in accounting as well as double counting of afforestation measures that could dilute global climate efforts;
65. Considers that the long-term strategy does not pay adequate attention to the primary production sectors of the economy, and that forestry and agricultural sectors and respective communities face disproportionately higher risk of adverse consequences of climate change; recommends that strategy give clear indication of the path that these sectors need to take to increase their resilience, improve risk prevention and sustain the ecosystems and their services, on which the economy depends;
66. Urges to maximise the protection and restoration of woodlands and wetlands as natural carbon removals;
67. Highlights that there is more carbon fixed in soils globally than in the biosphere and atmosphere combined; underlines therefore the importance of halting soil degradation in the EU, and of ensuring common EU action to preserve and improve the quality of soils and their capacity to store carbon;
68. Emphasises that out of the total technical potential of the practices for improved carbon sequestration of agricultural area in the EU, agriforestry has the greatest potential⁷;
69. Highlights the role of long-life harvested wood products and their role in the LULUCF

⁷ Joris Aertsens, Leo De Nocker¹, Anne Gobin, 2011: Valuing the carbon sequestration potential for European agriculture

sector to 2030; stresses that the future framework should consider their contribution also from the categories of agricultural land, not only managed forest and afforested land;

70. Stresses the importance of streamlining agricultural models supporting agricultural systems resilient to weather extremes and pest infestation, delivering improvement in soil carbon sequestration, water retention and agrobiodiversity;

Financing and research

71. Calls for rapid implementation of the EU ETS Innovation Fund and for the start of the first call for proposals in 2019 in order to boost investments in the demonstration of low-carbon industrial breakthrough technologies in a wide array of sectors, not only electricity production, but also district heating and industrial processes; calls for the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and its programmes to be fully consistent with the Paris Agreement;
72. Considers that in order for the Union to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest, substantial private investments need to be mobilised; believes that this requires long-term planning and regulatory stability and predictability for investors and that future EU-regulations need to take this into consideration; stresses therefore that the implementation of the Sustainable Finance Action Plan adopted in March 2018 should be prioritised, including a calibration of capital requirements of banks and a prudential treatment of high-carbon assets, prudential rules for insurance companies and an update of institutional investors' and asset managers' duties;
73. Considers that the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework should, before its adoption, be evaluated in the light of the objective to reach a climate neutral economy by 2050 and that a standard test to climate proof expenditure under EU budget must be established;
74. Notes that the EU Forest Strategy considers the rural development policy of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) the main source of support for the protection and the sustainable management of EU forests and that Bioeconomy Strategy highlights role of the CAP in supporting bioeconomy both financially and by providing feedstock.;
75. Regrets that fossil fuels subsidies are still increasing and amount to around €55 billion per year; calls on the EU and the Member States⁸ to immediately phase out all European and national fossil fuel subsidies;
76. Stresses the importance of creating a just transition fund, especially for the regions most affected by decarbonisation, in coal mining regions amongst others, combined with a general consideration of social impacts in existing climate funding; highlights in this regard the need for the long-term strategy to have wide public acceptance due to the transformations needed in some sectors;
77. Underlines that climate mainstreaming must be fully integrated in research and innovation content and applied at all stages of the research cycle as one of the principles

⁸ Energy Prices and Costs in Europe, COM(2019)1 final, pages 10-11.

of EU funding;

The role of consumers and circular economy

78. Highlights the significant impact of behavioural change in achieving GHG emissions reductions, including in the whole food system and in the transport sector and particularly the aviation sector; calls on the Commission to explore as soon as possible policy options, including on environmental taxation, to encourage behavioural change; underlines the importance of bottom-up initiatives such as the Covenant of Mayors in promoting behavioural change;
79. Notes that statistics from the FAO indicate that total meat and animal product consumption per capita in the EU28 has decreased since the 1990s and that supporting this ongoing trend, combined with technical supply-side mitigation measures, could reduce significantly emissions from agriculture production;
80. Stresses the importance of the EU achieving not only an energy substitution, but equally much a product/material one, i.e. substituting products and materials which are fossil-based or which create high emissions during production in favour of products based on renewable resources;
81. Underlines that a very large part of energy use and therefore GHG emissions is tied directly to the acquisition, processing, transport, conversion, use and disposal of resources; stresses that very significant savings are possible at each stage in the resource management chain; highlights therefore, that raising resource productivity through improved efficiency and reducing resource waste through measures such as reuse, recycling and remanufacturing can significantly lower both resource consumption and GHG emissions while improving competitiveness and creating business opportunities and jobs; highlights the cost efficiency of circular economy measures; underlines that improved resources efficiency and circular economy approaches as well as circular product design will help bring about a switch in production and consumption patterns and reduce the amount of waste;
82. Stresses the importance of product policy, such as green public procurement and ecodesign, which can contribute significantly to energy savings and to reducing the carbon footprint of products while at the same time improve their materials footprint and overall environmental impact; highlights the need to establish circular economy requirements as part of EU ecodesign standards and to expand the current ecodesign methodology to other product categories in addition to energy-related products;
83. Notes that the success of the transition towards climate neutral Europe will depend on the participation and commitment of citizens, which can be facilitated by energy efficiency and on-site renewable energy or by nearby renewable technologies;
84. Considers that the work on a reliable model for measuring the climate impact based on consumption should be continued; takes note of the fact that on the basis of the existing models, the in-depth analysis concludes that the EU's efforts to reduce emissions of its production are somehow levelled off by the imports of goods with higher carbon footprint; highlights the conclusion that by 2016 the EU had already contributed significantly to the reduction in emissions in other countries because of the increased

trade flow and the improved carbon efficiency of its exports;

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85. Underlines the importance of increased initiatives and sustained dialogue in relevant international fora, and an effective climate diplomacy with the aim to spur similar policy decisions ramping up climate ambition in other regions and third countries; call on the EU to increase its own climate financing and work actively to encourage Member States to increase their climate finance aid (development aid rather than loans) in third countries, which should be in addition to overseas development assistance, and not be double-counted as both development and climate finance aid;
86. Regrets that many other major economies are not yet working on 2050 strategies and there is almost no debate in other major economies about increasing the NDCs to bring them in line with the global target under the Paris Agreement; therefore asks the Council and the Commission to increase climate diplomacy and take other appropriate measures to encourage other major economies so that we can achieve together the long-term Paris Agreement targets;
87. Highlights the importance of a strong EU climate and energy diplomacy and leadership to strengthen global, multilateral partnership and ambition in the fight against climate change and for a sustainable development; calls on the Commission and Member States to advocate for common frameworks and action within UN formats;
88. Emphasises the United Nations Climate Summit of September 2019 as the moment for leaders to announce an increased ambition of the NDCs; considers that the EU should adopt a position on updating its NDC well in advance, so to arrive at the Summit well-prepared and in close cooperation with an international coalition of Parties in support of enhanced climate ambition;
89. Highlights the merit of strengthening the interoperability between EU policy instruments and third countries' equivalents, notably carbon pricing mechanisms; calls on the Commission to continue and intensify cooperation and support in the development of carbon pricing mechanisms outside of Europe to pursue increased emission reductions and an improved level playing field globally; underlines the importance of establishing environmental safeguards to ensure an actual and additional GHG reduction, calls therefore on the Commission to advocate for strict and robust international rules relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to prevent loopholes in accounting or double counting of emission reductions;
90. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States.