



Conference on the **Future** of **Europe**

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

Working Group on Climate Change and Environment, Chaired by Ms Pasková, Council / Czechia
Friday 25 March 2022, 9:00-11:30 and 14:00-16:00

1. Opening by the Chair and the Spokesperson

The Chair explained that the purpose of the meetings was to discuss the first draft of the proposals. This draft has been circulated and should be seen as a starting point. During the meetings today and another two future Working Group meetings, these proposals should be finalised in order to present them to the Conference Plenary. The Citizens' Spokesperson highlighted the need to be productive and stay focussed in order to come to tangible and applicable proposals.

3. Presentation and discussion on the draft proposals with a view to presenting draft proposals to the Plenary on 26 March

In the following discussions there was generally support for most of the proposals, while a number suggestions were put forward to develop them further. During the meetings Proposal 1, Proposal 2 and part of Proposal 3 were discussed.

Proposal 1 - Safe, sustainable, climate responsible, and affordable production of food, respecting sustainability principles, the environment, safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems:

In the discussion the following issues and suggestions were addressed:

- Among others, these suggestions for textual additions were mentioned: *a just transition, sustainable livelihoods for farmers, the need to ensure food security, food affordability, training for farmers, innovation, precision farming, more sustainable food production, fisheries and blue economy, incentives for organic farming, reducing food waste.*
- The current geopolitical situation was raised on a number of occasions, in particular in relation to the need to ensure food security.
- A number of interventions stressed the importance of moving towards more sustainable production, consumption and farming methods.
- The need to ensure good working conditions and livelihoods for farmers was also underlined.
- Members discussed the level of ambition in reducing the use of pesticides and the levels of subsidies for organic farming and the use of the eco-schemes.
- Members agreed on the need for reducing emissions and environmental impact, including through research, innovation and training.
- Generally the need for a just and green transition was raised by a number of Members.

- Animal welfare and sustainability in the meat production and animal transport was raised and the need to strengthening the link between breeding and feeding.
- Members did not agree on establishing purchasing quotas of local products for large international supermarkets, but member stressed the need to support local products and short supply chains.

Proposal 2 - Protect biodiversity and the landscape, eliminate all kinds of pollution:

In the discussion the following issues and suggestions were addressed:

- Among others, these suggestions for textual additions were mentioned: *restoring biodiversity and landscape, increasing awareness on pollution, the role of municipalities, urban forests, forests lost by fire, environmentally friendly shipping, fighting microplastic pollution, without endangering food security.*
- Members discussed elimination of pollution; addressing the need to be realistic, but also he need to be ambitious and with a long term vision, keeping in mind already existing targets.
- The overall importance of better managing protected areas and both protecting and restoring biodiversity was highlighted, while importance of not endangering food security was also raised.
- The importance of pollinating and indigenous insects was underlined by multiple Members, including the enforcement of existing regulations in this regard.
- The reforestation of destroyed forests, and specifically forest fires was raised and supported by a number of Members.

Proposal 3 - Tackle climate change and enhance European energy security, taking into account geopolitical implications, and providing Europeans with sufficient, affordable and sustainable energy, while keeping a role of global leader and respecting global climate protection goals:

In the discussion the following issues and suggestions were addressed:

- Among others, these suggestions for textual additions were mentioned; *more investments in renewables, storage methods, ensure a just transition, including human rights and ecological aspects.*
- The suggestion was made to better separate climate change and the energy security issue within the objective and measures.
- Several Members highlighted the need to move to renewable energy sources, also the decrease energy dependencies.
- For the general energy policy the geopolitical situation, human rights, ecological aspects, and good governance and rule of law of third country suppliers should be considered.
- There was no consensus found in relation to considering nuclear energy during the energy transition.
- The need for energy efficiency and a decrease of consumption, including through improving building insulation.
- Consider green hydrogen where electrification is difficult.
- Address the issue of energy storage.

4. Closing by the Chair

The Chair explained that there would be a presentation of the broad lines of the proposals and their specific measures at the Conference Plenary meeting the following day. The Chair concluded the meeting stating the need for additional working group meetings, likely taking place on April 1.