



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

DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

Working Group on Climate Change and Environment, Chaired by Ms Pasková, Council / Czechia
Thursday 7 April 2022, 18:00-21:00

1. Opening by the Chair and the Spokesperson

The Chair explained that this meeting will be the final meeting of the Working Group and the aim of the meeting would be to finalise the draft proposals for the Plenary. She emphasised a lot of progress has been made, but that the last outstanding issues need be discussed. During the exchange, all proposals were addressed individually in reversed order.

2. Exchange of views

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:

On Objective 1, the need to emphasise the green and blue economy was raised and a change was agreed in Measure 1, to remove the word 'high' in 'guaranteeing high productivity'. Furthermore the need for training for farmers was expanded to include also training 'from' farmers.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Protect and restore biodiversity and the landscape, and eliminate pollution

On Objective 2, discussions focussed on Measures 5 and 7 and a number of textural changes were agreed. On Measure 5 on afforestation, there was an added recognition of national specificities when recommending binding national targets for reforestation. On Measure 7 a number suggestions were raised and supported in relation enhancement of protection of water sources and on strengthening the text on research and funding for maritime fuels and technology.

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:

In general, Members supported the objective and the need to achieve energy independence was raised in this regard. On Measure 1 under this objective, support was expressed for indicating that the goal was to ‘accomplish’ the green transition and speed it up whenever possible. It was also raised that this should happen ‘in particular’ through investments in renewable energy.

On Measure 3 on the electricity grid, The Members agreed to extended it to include ‘maintenance’ and ‘transformation’ of the grid to enhance safety and the transition to renewable energy.

On Measure 5 regarding renewable energy technologies, there was a prolonged debate on the role of hydrogen. In the end, a reference to the “use” of hydrogen was extended to “production and use”.

Further emphasise on the importance of protecting workers and jobs was also raised and suggested to include in Measure 8.

Measure 10 about the phase-out of subsidising fossil fuels was discussed again but in the end no textual changed were agreed.

OBJECTIVE 4:

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

There was broad support for the current measures under this objective. The members discussed the use of technologies for vehicles that are difficult to electrify and the need to include island regions was raised as change for the text.

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:

Measure 6 which aims for a knowledge platform on how to use and repair products saw some debate about the concept of use and agreement was found on the addition of ‘sustainable’ or ‘longer-term’ use. The role of knowledge developed by consumer organisations will be highlighted here.

In Measure 7 on planned obsolescence some more differentiated wording was introduced, including early and premature obsolesce, and also the need for spare parts to be accessible for consumers. A minimum number of years for the availability of spare parts was discussed, but deemed impossible by a number of Members due to the diversity of products and difference in use of products.

On Measure 8 on secondary raw material market the need to refer to smarter and less use of primary materials was agreed.

Measure 12 on limiting advertising of environmentally damaging products was discussed, but in the end no textual changes were agreed.

OBJECTIVE 6:

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

On Measure 6 , on the mandatory teaching about biodiversity in schools, and Measure 7 on education, it was noted this is a competence of Members States and that the current Treaty does not allow the prescription of school curricula. It was also noted that Measure 6 under Objective 1 could consolidated under Measure 6 of Objective 1.

3. Closing by the Chair

The Chair and Spokesperson concluded the meeting and the Chair reminded Members that the proposals will be discussed in the Plenary session on Saturday 9 April.