



RESOLUTION:

PROPOSALS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND CLIMATE FRIENDLY EUROPE

*Adopted at the YEPP Council, Brussels, Belgium
On the 26th of September 2015*

Recognising:

- Articles 111, 123 and 125 of the EPP Platform, adopted in Bucharest on the 18th of October, 2012, which stress the importance of the legitimate interests of future generations;
- The IPCC 5th Assessment Report "Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis";
- That around 11% of the greenhouse gases emitted worldwide each year come from within the European Union¹;
- That while EU GDP grew 45% between 1990 and 2011, total greenhouse gas emissions from today's 28 Member States - including emissions from international aviation- were 16.9% below the 1990 level in 2011²;
- That the unilateral commitment made by the European Union to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared to 1990 levels, will very likely be met;
- That although the European Union and its member states on the 8th of December 2012, at the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties, adopted the Doha amendment to the Kyoto Protocol by decision 1/CMP.8, they have not yet formally adopted this amendment;
- That climate change is a question of responsibility, intergenerational equity, solidarity, innovation and opportunity;
- That climate change will have a huge impact on worldwide agricultural production, economic growth, quality of life, safe shelter, etc. and therefore means a serious issue for

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/g-gas/index_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/g-gas/index_en.htm

geopolitical stability and security; forcing people to migrate or giving cause to violent conflicts.

- The hazardous impact of microplastics in personal care products on marine ecology and the urgent recommendation from the *UN Environment Programme (UNEP)* (May 2015) to ban the use of these materials in cosmetic products.

Acknowledging:

- The YEPP council of presidents in December 2014 adopted the resolution on the 2030 climate and energy package
- The YEPP Council Meeting in Moldova in March 2006 adopted the resolution on climate change;
- The YEPP Council Meeting in The Hague on the 5th of September, 2009 adopted the resolution on the UN Climate Change Negotiations in Copenhagen;
- The YEPP Council Meeting in Sofia on the 20th of February, 2010 adopted the resolution on the Development of Renewable Energy;
- The YEPP Council Meeting in Budapest on the 25th of February, 2012 adopted the resolution "Europe and renewable energy";
- On the 5th of February, 2014 the European Parliament adopted a resolution³ that calls on the Commission and EU countries to set a 2030 target to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% from 1990 levels; to set an energy efficiency target of 40%; and to commit to producing at least 30% of total final energy consumption from renewable energy sources;
- The energy ministers from Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Ireland and Portugal sent a letter to European Commissioners Hedegaard and Oettinger stating that a renewable energy target for 2030 in the common framework should also include an ambitious and deliverable greenhouse gas target and facilitates a further increase in energy efficiency and increased interconnection capacity⁴;
- That in order to limit global temperature rise to 2°C by 2100, global greenhouse gas emissions have to peak by 2020 and then decrease 80-95% by 2050;

³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A7-2014-0047&language=EN>

⁴ <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B3Tt3iwid6uJMmxzcTRCbWlwdVk/edit?pli=1>

- That it is challenging to impose ambitious climate and energy policies without harming the competitiveness of Europe's economy, without a global and legally binding climate agreement;
- The Europe 2020 strategy focuses on a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
- The principle of intergenerational equity should be a core principle of any new international climate agreement negotiated by UNFCCC;
- That emission offsetting should be avoided and that the total greenhouse gas emissions needed for the services and products consumed within the European Union should be taken into account;
- That stimulating Emerging economies and developing countries into a direct sustainable transition ('leapfrogging') rather than following polluting development trajectories based on fossil fuels can generate worldwide 'triple benefits' (economic -social-ecological);

YEPP calls on

- The European Commission and Member States to increase funding in Research & Development (R&D) related to carbon neutral energy technologies and better integration of intermittent renewable sources in the existing distribution grids and energy markets.
- EU should implement a ban on the use of micro plastics in cosmetics and personal care products.
- The necessity for new product policies, by setting goals for industrial sustainability and energy efficiency in manufacturing, transport, (re)use and recycling of goods. The minimum guaranteed lifetime for electric and electronic devices should be raised to three years and built-in defects ('planned obsolescence') should be banned from entering the EU single-market.
- The implementation of a European deposit refund mechanism on all beverage packaging; to encourage reuse and recycling, and halt littering of our planetary ecosystems.
- Enforcing the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as a credible tool for implementing international solidarity in fighting the effects of Climate Change, both on the levels of adaptation and mitigation. An international tax on carbon emissions (e.g. on emissions from international flight travel) can be a source of income for this Green Climate Fund.

- A new agricultural policy, taking into account more sustainable means of producing healthy and qualitative food. Product labelling mechanisms could not only inform customers about the origin, ingredients and nutritional value of food products, but encourage companies to include ecological aspects of the production process. This, in the end, should lead to fairer market prices for local and sustainably produced food products.