

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

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42nd Meeting
26-27 March 2014, Reykjavik, Iceland

RESOLUTION

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 42nd meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Reykjavik
on 26 March 2014

Resolution on Energy and Climate 2030

Co-rapporteurs:
MP Irene Johansen (Labour Party, Norway)
MEP Paul Rübzig (EPP, Austria)

adopted unanimously

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. Having regard to the European Commission's Green Paper "A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies" and the public consultation therein,
- B. Having regard to the Communication from the European Commission on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030,
- C. Having regard to the Resolution by the European Parliament,
- D. Having regard to the Resolution by the EFTA parliamentarians,
- E. Recalling that the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee discussed the Green Paper at its meeting on 28 October 2013 and wishes to keep climate and energy 2030 as a permanent point on its agenda throughout the entire policy process in the European Union and the EEA,

- F. Recognising the ongoing debate within both the EU and the EEA EFTA States on respective objectives and targets for the post-2030 period proposed in the Communication from the European Commission,
- G. Recalling that the EEA EFTA States and Switzerland are not covered by the EU common energy and climate policy, but set their own national climate policies, objectives and targets,
- H. Noting at the same time that some of the legislative proposals that will be developed to implement the 2030 framework might be relevant for the EEA States and Switzerland and thus be incorporated into the EEA Agreement (and possibly the EU-Swiss electricity agreement), as has been the case with the 2020 framework,
- I. Recalling, thus, the importance of close dialogue at the earliest stage possible between the EU and the EEA EFTA States and Switzerland on energy and climate,
- J. Underlining the importance for the EEA EFTA States, also at parliamentary level, to engage with the EU in the entire policy process, focusing on aspects of relevance to the EEA Agreement or elements of importance to individual EEA EFTA States,
- K. Asking for this resolution to be seen as a positive and constructive contribution to the ongoing debate in the EU and a signal of the interest of the Joint Parliamentary Committee in the Commission's proposals,
 - 1. Welcomes the proposals from the European Commission on the 2030 framework and the ambitious Resolution adopted by the European Parliament;
 - 2. Wishes to specifically highlight the following issues of the proposal :
 - a. **Emissions Trading Scheme.** The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) underlines the importance of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) as a key tool for achieving the long-term climate and energy targets. The JPC welcomes thus the proposal for a reform of the ETS and will follow closely the legislative process in the European Parliament and Council on the proposal for a new market stability reserve. The JPC welcomes a further reduction in allowances after 2021 in order to reduce the surplus and increase the prices of the allowances, establishing incentives for investments in green technology.
 - b. **Greenhouse Gases.** The JPC welcomes the proposed 40 % emissions reduction below 1990 levels in general, and sees the ETS as a valuable tool for achieving this goal. The JPC also considers that non-ETS sectors can ease the carbon reduction effort.

- c. **Renewable Energy.** The JPC welcomes the Commission's proposal to increase the share of renewable energy in the European energy mix compared to the 2020 targets. It encourages Member States to set own national ambitions to increase the share of renewables, whilst also stressing the importance of EU level coordination.
- d. **Energy Efficiency.** The JPC believes that energy efficiency should play a key role in the 2030 framework, and looks forward to the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive. Future proposals in this area should have high ambitions both at EU and national level.
- e. **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).** Fossil fuels will continue to be part of the future energy mix. Technologies to capture and safely store CO₂ will be needed in order to help meeting climate policy targets. The signals from the Commission on financial support for CCS after 2020 are thus welcomed by the Committee.
- f. **Research and Innovation.** The JPC underlines the importance of investments in energy and climate-related research and cooperation in order to develop a low-carbon economy in Europe, and encourages the EU institutions to include this element when deciding upon a framework for 2030. The EU research programmes strengthening European research networks and the European Research Area are vital in this regard.
- g. **Internal Energy Market and infrastructure.** The JPC stresses the importance of completing the Internal Energy Market, of which the EEA EFTA States are an integral part. The development of large energy infrastructure projects, interconnecting national networks and increasing European storage capacity, will be important to reach this goal.
- h. **Security of energy supply.** The JPC supports the promoting of security of energy supply in the EU and the measures proposed by the European Commission to that end. The JPC notes that Norway is an important stabilising factor when it comes to reducing the EU's energy dependency.
- i. **International Developments.** The JPC supports the emphasis placed by the Commission on international developments, and underlines that global trends should be considered when agreeing on the 2030 framework. These developments include the shale gas "revolution" in the United States and its impact on the energy mix in Europe, as well as the new regional carbon markets in Asia and North/Central America and the likely outcome of the 2015 international agreement in Paris.

3. Expresses the interest to discuss these proposals with the relevant Commissioners;
4. Urges the EU to uphold a close dialogue with the EEA EFTA States on the 2030 climate and energy framework, especially on proposals of relevance to the EEA Agreement;
5. Encourages the EU and the EEA EFTA States to work together towards an ambitious international climate agreement in 2015;
6. Intends to follow closely the entire policy process of the 2030 framework and continue to provide input and comments on new Commission proposals;