

# EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

## JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Ref. 14-134478

43<sup>rd</sup> Meeting  
17 December 2014, Strasbourg, France

### RESOLUTION

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,  
at the 43rd meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Strasbourg, France on 17 December 2014

### **Resolution on the follow-up to the Climate and Energy Policy Framework 2030**

Co-rapporteurs:

Mr. Tibor Szanyi MEP (S&D, Hungary)  
Mr. Vilhjálmur Bjarnason (Independence Party, Iceland)

adopted unanimously

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area (JPC):

- A. Having regard to the European Council Conclusions on the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies,
- B. Having regard to the European Commission Communication on Energy Efficiency,
- C. Having regard to the EU Energy Security Strategy,
- D. Having regard to the Communication from the European Commission on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030,

- E. Having regard to the Resolution by the JPC,
- F. Having regard to the Resolution by the European Parliament,
- G. Having regard to the Resolution by the EFTA parliamentarians,
- H. Having regard to the European Commission's Green Paper on "A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies" and the public consultation therein,
- I. Recalling that the EEA JPC discussed climate and energy policy towards 2030 at its meeting in October 2013 and decided to keep it as a permanent agenda item throughout the entire policy process in the European Union and in the European Economic Area,
- J. Recalling that the EEA EFTA States are not covered by the EU common energy and climate policy, but set their own national climate policies, objectives and targets,
- K. Noting at the same time that some of the legislative proposals that will be developed to implement the 2030 framework might be relevant to the EEA States and thus be incorporated into the EEA Agreement, as has been the case with the 2020 framework,
- L. Underlining that EEA EFTA countries fully support EU's strong advocacy on climate change issues and closely follow up the project of an "Energy Union".
- M. Recalling, therefore, the importance of close dialogue between the EU and the EEA EFTA States on energy and climate,
- N. Underlining the importance for the EEA EFTA States, also at parliamentary level, to engage with the EU, focusing on aspects of relevance to the EEA Agreement or on elements of importance to individual EEA EFTA States,
- O. Asking for this resolution to be seen as constructive feedback to the Conclusions reached at the European Council on the 2030 framework,
  - 1. Welcomes the Conclusions of the European Council on the 2030 framework, and highlights the following issues:
    - a. **Greenhouse Gases.** The JPC welcomes the decision to further reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 40% compared to 1990 levels.
    - b. **Renewable Energy.** The JPC supports the decision to increase the target to 27% for renewable energy in the European energy mix compared to the 2020 targets. It encourages EU Member States and the EEA EFTA States to initiate measures to increase the share of renewables in Europe.

- c. **Energy Efficiency.** The JPC welcomes the indicative target at EU level of 27% for improving energy efficiency by 2030. It notes that the target will be reviewed by 2020 bearing in mind the proposed 30% target, and underlines the importance of clarity about the policy framework for encouraging long-term investment in green technology.
- d. **Emissions Trading Scheme.** The JPC sees the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) as a key tool for achieving the transition to a low carbon economy and to attaining the 40% reduction target of GHG emissions. It therefore welcomes a further reduction in allowances after 2021 in order to reduce the surplus and increase the prices of the allowances, although there are concerns that the proposed reduction factor from 1.74% to 2.2% is not enough.
- e. **Non-ETS Sector.** The JPC supports that increased efforts also are necessary in the non-ETS sector, such as in transport and agriculture, in contributing to a reduction in emissions.
- f. **Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS).** Fossil fuels will continue to be part of the future energy mix and technologies to capture and safely store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) will be needed. Further research into and commercial demonstration of CCS are crucial in order to reduce emissions. The JPC therefore welcomes the extension of the NER300 Programme from 300 million to 400 million allowances to support renewables, CCS and low carbon innovation in industrial sectors. Sustainable agriculture and forestry are as well important tools for reducing emissions and contributing to carbon capture and storage.
- g. **Internal Energy Market.** The JPC agrees with the urgency expressed by the European Council of completing the Internal Energy Market, of which the EEA EFTA States are an integral part. An integrated and commercially based energy market, for both gas and electricity, is also vital for energy security in Europe.
- h. **Energy Security.** The JPC supports the promotion of security of energy supply in the EU and underlines the need to prioritise the development of infrastructure and interconnectors in order to allow for a secure and diversified energy flow. The JPC notes the role of Norway as an important stabilising factor when it comes to reducing the EU's energy dependency.
- i. **Research and Innovation.** The JPC reiterates the importance of investing in research and cooperation in order to develop a low carbon economy in Europe. The EU research programmes

strengthening European research networks and the European Research Area are vital in this regard.

- j. **International Developments.** The JPC sympathises with the need to align climate and energy targets with global actors in international negotiations in order to sustain competitiveness in Europe, but underlines the importance of maintaining ambitious targets in order to manage the transition to an independent low carbon economy;
2. Urges the EU to uphold close dialogue with the EEA EFTA States on the follow-up to the 2030 climate and energy policy framework, especially on proposals of relevance to the EEA Agreement;
3. Intends to monitor the follow-up to the 2030 framework and continue to provide input and comments on new proposals;
4. Encourages the EU and the EEA EFTA States to work together towards an ambitious international climate agreement in Paris in 2015.