

Statement by the Committee on Industry and Commerce 2013/14:NU29

Review of the Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030

Summary

In this statement, the Committee considers the European Commission's Communication entitled 'A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030' (COM(2014) 15). The Communication was referred to the Committee for review in accordance with Chapter 10, Article 5 of the Riksdag Act. The Committee on Environment and Agriculture sent a statement to the Committee on Industry and Commerce regarding the aspects of the Communication that fall within the remit of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture.

In its statement, the Committee on Industry and Commerce takes the view that the Commission's proposal for a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 is both welcome and well balanced. The target of reducing greenhouse gases by 40 % within the EU by 2030 compared with 1990 is well judged. In addition, the Committee welcomes the Commission's proposal that the EU should obtain at least 27 % of its energy from renewable sources by 2030. The Committee further agrees with the view of the Government and the Commission that there are grounds to defer the forthcoming follow-up of the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive in the EU until there is sufficient cause to return to the question of a target for energy efficiency.

Four reasoned reservations (Swedish Social Democratic Party (S), Green Party (MP), Swedish Democrats (SD) and Left Party (V)) are enclosed with the statement.

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The Committee's proposal for a Parliamentary decision

Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030

Parliament encloses the following documents with the statement.

Reservation 1 (S) – grounds
Reservation 2 (MP) – grounds
Reservation 3 (SD) – grounds
Reservation 4 (V) – grounds

The Committee proposes that the matter be decided after being placed on the table of the House once only.

Stockholm, 11 March 2014

On behalf of the Committee

Mats Odell

The following members participated in the decision: Mats Odell (Christian Democrats ((KD)), Jonas Eriksson (Swedish Green Party (MP)), Lars Hjalmered (Moderate Party (M)), Jennie Nilsson (Social Democrats (S)), Hans Rothenberg (M), Carina Adolfsson Elgestam (S), Olof Lavesson (M), Cecilie Tenfjord-Toftby (M), Eva Flyborg (Liberal People's Party (FP), Börje Vestlund (S), Ann-Charlotte Hammar Johnsson (M), Anna Hagwall (SD), Kent Persson (V), Ingela Nylund Watz (S), Berit Högman (S), Eva-Lena Jansson (S) and Anders Ahlgren (Centre Party (C))

Presentation of the case

The case and its preparation

In accordance with Chapter 10, Article 5 of the Riksdag Act, the House referred the European Commission's Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 (COM(2014) 15) to the Committee on Industry and Commerce for review on 26 February 2014.

On 6 February 2014, subject to the proviso that the House would indeed refer the Communication to the Committee on Industry and Commerce for review, the Committee decided to give the Committee on Environment and Agriculture an opportunity to express its views regarding the Communication.

The Committee on Environment and Agriculture submitted statement 2013/14:MJU3y. This statement is enclosed as Annex 2. Four dissenting opinions are enclosed with the statement (S, MP, SD and V).

On 27 February 2014, the Committee received the Government Offices' explanatory memorandum 2013/14:FPM56. On the same day, Secretary of State Daniel Johansson informed the Committee about the Communication at the meeting with the Transport, Communication and Energy Council (TTE Council) on 4 March 2014. On 6 March 2014, the Committee submitted the government's views on the Communication to Anna-Karin Hatt, Minister for Information Technology and Energy. The Committee was in support of the government's position in connection with the submission. A different opinion from that of the Committee is reported in a joint dissenting opinion (S, MP, SD and V). In addition, four additional dissenting opinions (S, MP, SD and V) are enclosed with the minutes.

Background

The European Council approved in October 2009 and adopted in February 2011 a target for the EU to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95 % by 2050 in order to achieve the 2 °C target. The climate and energy package leading up to 2020 adopted by the European Council in 2008 contains three climate and energy targets that must be achieved by 2020: greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced by 20 %, the proportion of renewable energy to amount to 20 % of energy consumption and energy efficiency to increase by 20 %. In 2011, the Commission presented three Roadmaps leading up to 2050 for the areas of climate and energy and the transport sector. On 27 March 2013, the Commission presented a Green Paper on 'A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies', based on the Roadmaps (COM(2013) 169). The Green Paper called for comments on the scope and structure that the energy and climate targets for 2030 should have.

In accordance with Chapter 10, Article 5 of the Riksdag Act, the Committee on Industry and Commerce reviewed the Green Paper and issued a statement on the matters considered by Parliament in June (statement 2012/13:NU24).

On 22 January 2014, the Commission presented the present Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 (COM(2014) 15).

The Committee's deliberations

Review of the Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030

Brief description of the Committee's proposal

Parliament has added the statement to the documents. The Committee wishes to emphasise that the Commission's proposal for a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 is both welcome and well-balanced. Furthermore, the Committee believes that the target for a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 40 % in the EU by 2030 relative to 1990 is well judged. In addition, the Committee welcomes the Commission's proposal for a target within the EU according to which at least 27 % of energy would come from renewable sources by 2030. The Committee also agrees with the view of the Government and the Commission that there are grounds for deferring the forthcoming follow-up of the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive in the EU until there is sufficient cause to return to the issue of a target for energy efficiency.

See reservations 1 (S), 2 (MP), 3 (SD) and 4 (V).

The Commission's Communication

Introduction

In the Commission's view, the key elements of a new 2030 climate and energy framework should comprise a greenhouse gas reduction target at EU level which is shared equitably among the Member States in the form of binding national targets; a reform of the Emissions Trading System (ETS); an EU-level target for the proportion of renewable energy and a new European governance process for energy and climate policies based on Member State plans for competitive, secure and sustainable energy.

The Commission proposes a greenhouse gas reduction target in the EU of 40 % in the period up to 2030 relative to 1990. The Commission notes that the measures and control instruments already in place to achieve the emissions target for 2020 will continue to have an effect after 2020, and are collectively likely to lead to a 32 % reduction in emissions by 2030.

Greenhouse gas reduction target

With regard to the greenhouse gas reduction target, the Commission urges the Council and the European Parliament to agree by the end of 2014 that, from the start of 2015, the EU will undertake to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 % in the period to 2030 compared with 1990, as an element of the negotiations to be concluded at the 21st Conference of the Parties on Climate Change in Paris in December 2015. This target should, according to the Commission, be distributed between the sectors covered by the EU's ETS and non-ETS sectors, as the centrepiece of the EU's energy and climate policy for 2030.

The Commission states that a sharing of efforts between the Member States should address relevant distributional factors whilst at the same time ensuring the

functioning of the internal market. The Commission also indicates various ways of including the carbon fluxes from forestry and land use.

According to the Commission, the EU should be prepared to adopt further measures and to balance a higher level of commitment for the EU in international negotiations against, for example, investments in international emission reduction units.

Renewable energy targets at EU level

The Commission states that a greenhouse gas reduction target of 40 % should in itself encourage an increase in the proportion of renewable energy in the EU of at least 27 %. Therefore, the Commission proposes a binding target at EU level of at least 27% renewable energy, which would not be binding on the Member States individually but would be fulfilled through clear commitments decided by the Member States themselves. These commitments should, according to the Commission, be guided by the need to deliver the EU-level target for 2030 collectively and build on what each Member State should deliver in relation to their current targets for 2020. These commitments for 2030 will be followed up through national plans, and, if necessary, supplemented by further EU action and instruments to ensure delivery of the EU target. The Commission proposes no new targets for renewable energy in the transport sector.

The Commission emphasises that the greater flexibility for the Member States to realign their own energy system must be combined with a stronger emphasis on the need to complete the internal market for energy. Furthermore, emphasis is placed on cost-effective support systems for renewable energy, agreement with state support legislation and the importance of avoiding measures that distort the market. The importance of energy infrastructure is also highlighted. The Commission also believes that an improved biomass policy is necessary to ensure the resource-efficient and sustainable use of biomass allowing fair competition between different applications.

Energy efficiency

The Commission intends to evaluate the Energy Efficiency Directive and target fulfilment for 2020 in mid-2014. The Commission believes that this evaluation is necessary in order to determine future ambitions for energy efficiency and the measures necessary to deliver such efficiency.

The evaluation will build on the analysis underpinning this Communication and the targets and objectives for greenhouse gas reductions and renewable energy up until 2030. The Commission considers that energy efficiency should complement the deployment of renewable energy by the Member States as part of their plans to deliver greenhouse gas savings. The Commission feels that the plans should also identify national measures to improve energy efficiency. The Commission has established that a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 40 % would require a higher level of energy savings of approximately 25 % in 2030.

Competitive and affordable energy for all consumers

According to the Commission, a competitive and integrated internal energy market is essential in order to achieve the climate and energy policy targets in a cost-effective manner. The Commission has stated that the internal market is an important tool for stabilising energy prices. Furthermore, the Commission believes that the position of consumers in the energy markets should be strengthened.

The Commission has stated that energy is important for the competitiveness of Member States, as it affects production costs and the purchasing power of households. Furthermore, the Commission notes that in recent years developments in the international energy markets have meant that the price gap between the EU and many major economies has increased.

The Commission also believes that there is much evidence to indicate that energy costs will continue to rise as a result of the need to replace aging infrastructure in the EU, rising fossil fuel prices, the implementation of existing climate and energy policies and higher prices for carbon dioxide emissions. Therefore, the Commission proposes to maintain the existing policy framework for those industrial sectors most at risk of carbon leakage until the end of trading in phase 3 in the ETS.

Promoting security of supply

The commission emphasises that more types of measure will be required in order to increase the security of energy supplies in the EU. The further production of domestic energy is essential, and energy supplies must be diversified further in terms of both countries and supply paths. It is also necessary for competition in the energy markets to increase, alongside an increase in the development of energy infrastructure. Finally, the Commission also believes that further measures are required to improve the energy intensity of the economy through energy efficiency.

European governance for the 2030 framework

The Member States need flexibility in the implementation of climate and energy policy, and there is, according to the Commission, a need to streamline the currently separate processes for reporting renewable energy, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reductions for the period after 2020. The Commission believes that the target set for 2030 must be achieved through a mix of measures at both EU level and national level as described in Member States' national plans. These plans would among other things ensure that the EU's targets are achieved.

The Commission envisages an iterative process led by the Commission to assess Member States' plans and make recommendations as appropriate. The Commission intends to draw up detailed guidance on the functioning of the governance process and the content of national plans. Furthermore, the Commission proposes that the framework be supplemented with a number of indicators for security of supply and competitiveness.

Complementary policies

The Commission will review a number of policy areas within which climate and energy policy must be developed up until 2030. Emissions from the transport sector must be reduced by 60 % by 2050 relative to 1990. The agricultural and forestry and land use sectors both emit and capture greenhouse gases. The Commission notes that these emissions and capture of greenhouse gases are handled in different ways in the EU's climate policy.

Greenhouse gas emissions from energy- and carbon-intensive industries must come down significantly if they are to be compatible with the EU's long-term greenhouse gas targets. The Commission believes that Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) may be a technology for fossil fuel-based electricity generation that can provide both base-load and balancing capacity in an electricity system with an increasing proportion of variable renewable energy production.

The Commission also believes that the EU will have to step up its efforts as regards research and development in order to support the post-2020 climate and energy policy.

International background

According to the Commission, the formulation of a framework for climate and energy policy up to 2020 must take into consideration international development. The Commission notes that the international energy markets are undergoing change and that global demand for energy will continue to rise.

A new legally binding global climate agreement including all parties which would apply post-2020 must be adopted at the 21st Conference of the Parties on Climate Change in Paris in 2015.

Preliminary position of the Government

The Government has given an account of the following preliminary position in the Government Offices' explanatory memorandum (2013/14:FPM56) with regard to this Communication:

The Government welcomes the European Commission's proposal for a general policy framework for climate and energy in the period leading up to 2030, but believes that the level of ambition should be higher. There is a need for the EU to affirm its leadership and act strongly and constructively in order to bring about a global climate agreement at the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change in Paris in 2015.

The Government is in support of the EU Commission's proposal of a 40 % reduction in emissions in the EU, provided that the resultant burden is shared between the Member States in a cost-effective manner. The way in which the burden is shared will have a major impact on each Member State's share of the emissions reduction. The Government furthermore envisages an additional 10 % reduction in emissions in the form of international credits, provided other developed countries take on their share of the burden in the international negotiations. The emissions target is an overall renewable target, as the most important thing is that emissions are actually reduced.

The Government supports a minimum target of 27 % renewable energy in the EU, where the burden is not distributed between the Member States. The national targets are very important as the burden for this target is not distributed.

The renewable target must be achieved in a cost-effective manner. The Government's view of the 27 % target may be considered in the light of cost and technology developments. The aim of the renewable target is to phase out fossil fuel.

The Government supports the EU Commission's proposal of returning to energy efficiency following the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive later in the year.

The Government considers the completion of the internal market to be a prerequisite for competitive energy markets in the EU. An internal market is also a prerequisite for the cost-effective fulfilment of targets. The continued development of renewable energy should take place with the greatest possible level of cost-effectiveness in the design of instruments. The framework should also stimulate cooperation between Member States. Furthermore, the Government

believes that bioenergy could play an important role in the EU's climate and energy policy leading up to 2030, and it intends to participate actively in discussions regarding the EU's future biomass policy.

The Government believes that the capture and emission of greenhouse gases from the forestry and land use sectors should be included as a part of the climate policy. Nevertheless, the capture and emissions of greenhouse gases from the forestry and land use sectors should be considered taking into account the considerable uncertainty that is inherent in calculations of greenhouse gas flows. The key role of forestry in the production of sustainable bioenergy and climate-intelligent materials, biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as the long-term production horizon of forestry, must also be considered. The Government can envisage specific benefits in proposing indicators, and welcomes the fact that these are not to be interpreted as binding targets. However, these indicators must be analysed.

It is the ambition of the Government that the European Council reaches a decision in March with regard to the EU's long-term climate and energy policy in order to provide industry and society in general with a long-term basis and to provide the EU with clarity ahead of the climate summit in September.

Position of the European Parliament and the Member States

The Government Offices' explanatory memorandum states that certain Member States clarified their general position before the Commission presented its proposal. Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Ireland, Portugal, Germany and Austria wrote a letter to the Commission in December 2013 in support of a binding target for renewable energy in the 2030 framework. In January 2014, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy and Spain wrote a letter to the Commission requesting that the Commission put forward a proposal for an internal EU climate target of at least 40 %. In a joint statement from February 2014, the Czech Republic, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Bulgaria joined together in support of an internal EU target for a 'realistic' level in the light of international climate negotiations; these countries are opposed to legally binding targets for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

On 5 February 2014, the European Parliament adopted an initiative report, which constitutes the European Parliament's input to the development of a policy framework for climate and energy in the period up to 2030. In the initiative report, the European Parliament recommends three binding targets: a 40 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, 30 % of energy to come from renewable energy sources and energy efficiency to be improved by 40 %.

Previous deliberations by the Swedish Parliament

Energy Roadmap 2050

In the spring of 2011, the Committee reviewed the Commission's Communication 'Energy Roadmap 2050' (COM(2011) 885). The Communication addresses how Europe's energy production in future could be essentially carbon dioxide-free without impacting on energy supplies and competitiveness in order to contribute towards the EU achieving its target for reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Committee's review resulted in a statement being issued (statement 2011/12:NU20).

In the statement, the Committee emphasised the importance of the EU's energy policy having an aim that was in accordance with the overall target that the global temperature be permitted to rise by no more than two degrees and the EU's target that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced by 80-95 % by 2050. Furthermore, the Committee emphasised the importance of stable and long-term rules for actors in the energy market to provide the necessary preconditions for appropriate investments in production and distribution systems.

The Committee emphasised the fact that energy efficiency and the greater use of renewable energy were important tools for achieving the common overall targets in the EU's energy policy, such as lower greenhouse gas emissions, greater security of supply and increased competitiveness. Both energy efficiency and renewable energy will also play an important role in the transition to a sustainable energy system. In connection with this, the Committee emphasised the importance of understanding that the preconditions of the Member States vary as regards their choice of energy sources. Not all Member States have preconditions that are as favourable as Sweden, which has good preconditions in terms of renewable energy, electricity generation and low carbon electricity generation.

Furthermore, the Committee believed that economic instruments with a general effect, such as energy taxes, carbon dioxide taxes and the EU's ETS were pivotal in bringing about cost-effective reductions in emissions and should be given a greater role. It is important that these instruments be supplemented with a focus on research and development. Modern infrastructure that allows energy trading across national boundaries is also an important precondition in order to create a well-functioning European energy market. The Committee noted that the basic principle in this issue is that it is the market players who must take responsibility for the planning and financing of these energy infrastructure investments.

Two reasoned reservations were enclosed with the statement. In the first reservation (S, MP, V), it was noted by way of introduction that the dissentients would like to see a fossil fuel-free society, a society without any greenhouse gas emissions and a society that uses 100 % renewable energy. The dissentients shared the view of the Commission that immediate measures must be adopted in order to achieve the climate target for 2050. Focusing on future technology, infrastructure and renewable energy was emphasised as being important and it was stressed that a stronger focus on energy efficiency is necessary in the form of both energy savings and smarter energy consumption. The dissentients were critical of the importance attached to nuclear power in the Roadmap, and expressed doubts over the hope that the Commission attached to CCS technology as a solution to carbon dioxide emissions. By way of conclusion, the dissentients emphasised that the EU should play a coordinating role with regard to transboundary energy infrastructure and that the EU's support should be directed towards infrastructure initiatives that contribute towards the EU and its Member States achieving the adopted climate and energy targets.

The second reasoned reservation (SD) emphasises the importance of the fact that the Roadmap neither could nor should replace the individual nations' own long-term targets for energy supplies. Bilateral agreements between countries may be a feasible way of securing energy supplies in a way that is both effective and socio-economically satisfactory. The dissentient considered that nuclear power would also come to be an important energy source in the future in order to achieve more carbon dioxide-neutral electricity generation.

Furthermore, it was emphasised that the targets established by the EU to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must not jeopardise the economies of individual nations or those of households. Commitments in the EU must instead be linked to efforts to reach binding targets at a global level. Energy efficiency was emphasised as an important measure, but one that should in the first instance be addressed nationally and in accordance with market conditions, not least on the basis of the fact that the applicable preconditions vary too much among the EU's Member States for common norms and systems to be applied.

According to the dissentient, dependency on fossil fuels, primarily coal, should be broken in the long term, as should dependencies on imports from unstable States. It is particularly important that dependencies on imported gas do not increase, and that national energy supply plans are not dependent on the energy supply plans of other nations. According to the dissentient, an important step is that each Member State should strive towards being self-sufficient as regards electricity generation.

The Commission's Green Paper 'A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies'
In the spring of 2013, the Committee reviewed the Commission's Green Paper for a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies. This review resulted in a statement being issued (statement 2012/13:NU24). Both the Green Paper and the consultation associated process formed the basis for the Communication entitled 'A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030', which is now being reviewed by the Committee.

In its statement regarding the Green Paper, the Commission supported the Swedish Government's view that a framework for climate and energy for 2030 should be drawn up and adopted as soon as possible in order to provide European industry and other actors in society with guidelines regarding the policy for climate and energy that would operate in Europe after 2020. The Committee believed that the EU should establish an ambitious target for reducing the EU's greenhouse gas emissions in the period up to 2030. Furthermore, the Committee shared the Swedish Government's view that a binding climate target for 2030 must include international measures. Additionally, the Committee emphasised that a focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency would be important in order to achieve the target for reduced greenhouse gas emissions. According to the Committee, nuclear power would also need to contribute to Europe's energy transition in order for the target to be achieved.

Furthermore, the Committee supported the Government's recommendation to the Commission to examine the advantages and disadvantages of different energy policy targets. The Committee emphasised the importance of the Commission also considering the interaction (with regard to both economies of scope and any clashes of interest) between climate and energy policy targets and instruments. Furthermore, the Commission must be able to relate to the (in some respects important) global changes, which could affect the preconditions for target fulfilment or the effectiveness of different instruments.

Two reasoned reservations were enclosed with the statement. In the first reservation (S, MP, V), it is noted by way of introduction that the dissentients would like to see a fossil fuel free society, a society without any greenhouse gas emissions and a society that uses 100 % renewable energy. In order to achieve the fossil fuel-free society, the dissentients were convinced of the value of clear binding targets in a number of areas and advocated that a target should be developed now for 2040 and that the EU's target for 2030 must be more ambitious than that proposed by the Commission.

The dissentients also advocated a new binding target for the production of renewable energy in the period up to 2030 as for energy efficiency. With regard to energy efficiency, the dissentients would like to see Sweden clearly stand up for the view that essential energy efficiency measures must not be considered as costs, but as profitable investments, which in the event of price spikes would also reduce vulnerability and electricity costs for both households and industry.

The dissentients expressed doubts about having too much confidence in nuclear power and CCS technology as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

By way of conclusion, the dissentients stressed that a well-developed energy infrastructure is important in order for the EU to act strongly in the area of climate and energy policy. They maintained the importance of the fact that the EU's support for infrastructure initiatives must support the EU and its Member States at the time when climate and energy targets are determined. Therefore, the dissentients consider it alien that the EU would support infrastructure initiatives that would lock Europe into fossil fuel dependency.

The second reasoned reservation (SD) highlighted the importance of nations having control over their own energy supplies, and the dissentient highlighted the importance of a high level of national self-sufficiency.

The dissentient objected to a policy which would mean that Sweden would act as a pioneer by adopting significantly more stringent climate commitments than other countries. Any binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions must not jeopardise the economies of individual nations or those of households. Additionally, according to the dissentient, it is necessary that commitments in the EU should instead be linked to efforts to achieve binding targets at a global level.

The dissentient also stressed the importance of counteracting carbon leakage. Furthermore, the dissentient was opposed to a binding target for energy efficiency at EU level, noting that preconditions vary too much between the EU's Member States for common norms and systems to be applied.

According to the dissentient, dependency on fossil fuels, primarily coal, should be broken in the long term. Nuclear power will play an important role in Sweden reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. Dependencies on energy imports from unstable States must be reduced. Each Member State should strive towards being self-sufficient as regards electricity generation.

The dissentient did not consider that the dependency on fossil fuel could be broken in an effective way through heavy subsidies given to forms of renewable energy generation such as wind power, solar power and biofuels. Therefore, the EU should phase out subsidies for certain intermittent energy types and instead ensure access to base load and variable power.

By way of conclusion, the dissentient stressed that it was of great importance that Sweden's electricity transmission capacity to Europe should not be reinforced until Sweden's national capacity has been fully developed.

The Committee's position

The EU's policy for climate and energy is intimately linked with, and also forms part of, a global context in which the living conditions of future generations are at stake. There are major challenges in finding solutions which significantly contribute towards solving the world's climatic challenges and which at the same time are politically sustainable both temporally and spatially. This must involve solutions that take into account the different preconditions and starting points that exist, not just between EU

Member States, but also as regards the global nature of the issues and long timescales. The Committee agrees with the view of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment that it is important that the EU affirms its leadership and acts strongly and constructively to bring about a global climate agreement in Paris in 2015 that maintains global warming below a level of 2 °C. In order to demonstrate its leadership, the EU needs to adopt climate targets ahead of the climate summit, which the UN Secretary-General will hold in September 2014. However, the desire to act resolutely must constantly be balanced against any consequences which could perhaps mean that the outcome is the opposite of that intended in the long-term. There is nothing to gain from simply transferring greenhouse gas emissions to another part of the world.

The Committee has expressed its views on the EU's future policy for climate and energy on a number of occasions over the past year. In connection with this, the Committee has among other things expressed its concern that the pace of the global work regarding the climate is too slow and has emphasised the need for urgent measures. The Committee believes that a framework for climate and energy for 2030 needs to be prepared and adopted as soon as possible in order to provide European industry and other actors in society with guidelines regarding the policy for climate and energy that will operate in Europe after 2020. The Committee believes an ambitious binding target for a reduction in the EU's greenhouse gas emissions in the period up to 2030 to be a central element of this framework. Similarly, the Committee has emphasised the importance of a clear connection between the early adoption of binding climate targets for the EU for 2030 and the international climate negotiations. With regard to renewable energy and energy efficiency targets, the Committee supports the Government's view that the advantages and disadvantages of such targets need to be analysed in more detail and that the interaction (with regard to both economies of scope and any clashes of interest) between climate and energy policy targets and instruments should be taken into consideration.

On the basis of this, the Committee believes that the proposal for a policy framework for climate and energy for the period from 2020 to 2030 that the Commission has now presented to be both welcome and well-balanced. Like the Commission, the Government and the Committee on Environment and Agriculture, the Committee believes that a binding climate target for the EU in the period up to 2030 should be adopted as soon as possible. Such a target would make it possible to achieve the target of reducing emissions by between 80 and 90 % by 2050 in a cost-effective manner. The Commission's proposal of a 40 % reduction in emissions in the EU is well judged. At the same time, the Committee (as the Committee on Environment and Agriculture highlighted in its statement) stresses the importance of sharing the burden between the Member States in a cost-effective manner. The Committee does not differ from the Committee on Environment and Agriculture and the Government in their positive view of a further 10 % reduction in emissions if the target then includes the potential for emissions reductions abroad, providing other developed countries take on their share of the burden in international negotiations. The benefits of this are described in the statement by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture. The Committee also concurs with the Committee on Environment and Agriculture's view that the EU's ETS is pivotal for the EU's climate policy and for attaining the EU's climate targets, in both the short and the long term. Therefore, the Committee welcomes the measures announced by the Commission which aim to strengthen the system. The Committee supports the view set out in the statement by

the Committee on Environment and Agriculture regarding the capture and emission of greenhouse gases from the forestry and land use sectors.

Besides an overall target for greenhouse gas emissions, the Committee welcomes the Commission's proposal for an EU target according to which at least 27 % of energy must come from renewable sources, with the burden not being distributed between the Member States. Like the Government, the Committee stresses the importance of cost-effectiveness in the measures that are adopted in order to achieve the target and that the framework should stimulate cooperation between the Member States. The fact that the success of the Swedish-Norwegian electricity system has attracted attention in connection with this could possibly stimulate more solutions of a similar type in other Member States. The Committee also supports the Government's view that there may be grounds to reconsider the view of the renewable energy target in the light of cost and technological developments in the long-term. The aim of the renewable energy target is to phase out fossil fuels.

The more efficient use of energy and in certain cases better energy efficiency among households is another important tool in the battle against climate challenges. However, the Committee supports the view of the Government and the Commission that there are grounds to defer the forthcoming follow-up of the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive in the EU until there is sufficient cause to return to the issue of a target for energy efficiency.

The Committee also believes that a developed and well-functioning internal energy market is also important for the policy for climate and energy to achieve the indicative targets for a reduction in greenhouse gases, greater security of supply and increased competitiveness. An internal market is also a precondition for the cost-effective fulfilment of the climate and energy policy targets.

The Committee would also like to emphasise the importance of understanding that preconditions vary considerably between the Member States as regards the potential to choose between different types of energy source. Not all Member States have preconditions that are as favourable as they are in Sweden in terms of renewable energy, renewable electricity generation and low carbon electricity generation. This is also accompanied by the fact that there are considerable differences as regards the economic preconditions of different Member States to take on commitments concerning substantial reductions in emissions or to realign their energy systems. Strong dependencies on energy imports from countries with unstable political conditions may also be a complicating factor. Similar considerations at a global level mean that differences in the preconditions of different countries become even more apparent. The quest for prosperity among countries that have not progressed as far as many countries in the Western world is undeniably a factor that must be considered.

By way of conclusion, the Committee wishes to note that the main purpose of a statement of this kind is to raise awareness of the EU's work and to contribute to a broader debate concerning strategically important EU matters. Therefore, the purpose of the Committee's review of the Commission's Communication is not to submit a formal statement to the Commission. The Government has primary responsibility for representing the country in connection with this.

Therefore, the Committee proposes that Parliament add the statement to the documents.

2013/14:NU29

Reservations

The Committee's proposal for a Parliamentary decision and position has given rise to the following reservations. The heading indicates the point in the Committee's proposal for a Parliamentary decision that is considered in the section concerned.

1. Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period 2020 to 2030 – grounds (S)

by Jennie Nilsson (S), Carina Adolfsson Elgestam (S), Börje Vestlund (S), Ingela Nylund Watz (S), Berit Högman (S) and Eva-Lena Jansson (S).

Position

Our views concerning the Swedish climate and energy policy are guided by our ultimate aim of achieving a fossil-free society, a society without any emissions of greenhouse gases and with 100 % renewable energy. Of course, this fundamental attitude is also reflected in our views as regards how the EU should act in this area.

Against this background, we believe that the Commission's proposal for new climate targets for 2030 actually lowers the level of ambition for the common climate policy. The fact that the Government also supports the Commission's view deeply concerns us. With regard to a vital issue for climate and the EU's economic development, Sweden has – despite claims of high ambitions relating to climate – decided to adopt a passive approach.

Unlike the Commission and the Government, we would like to see much stronger measures from the EU in order to achieve necessary targets for reductions in emissions within the Union and, in particular, to act as a driving force in the international work relating to climate. Sweden should take a clear leadership role within the EU in an attempt to steer the Union's common stance in the desired direction.

We strongly believe that binding targets are necessary in many areas in order to achieve success. Like the European Parliament, we prescribe three clear climate and energy targets which must be implemented by the EU countries collectively – a line that is considerably more ambitious than that of both the Commission and the Government.

We have a positive view of the Commission's proposal for an overarching binding target for greenhouse gas emissions, but believe that the target is not sufficiently ambitious. We would have preferred the EU to establish an ambitious emissions target of a 50 % reduction by 2030 that is binding for Member States. Such a target should also not include unclear emission reductions elsewhere. We thus believe that Sweden should drive forward the proposal not only for a more ambitious target but also a target which does not include emission credits. Our further argument relating to this position is indicated by the dissenting opinion in the statement by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture which the representatives of the Social Democrats stand behind. This opinion sets out the Social Democrat's view of how

emissions and capture of greenhouse gases from different forms of land use should be considered.

We also advocate an ambitious and binding target for Member States of 40 % renewable energy in the EU by 2030. Today, the energy sector accounts for a high proportion of emissions in Europe and comprehensive changes to the Member States' energy systems are essential in order to achieve this. A sustainable fossil-free society is a possibility, but only if the political ambitions relating to climate and energy are strengthened. The initiatives that are required will not just be good for the climate and human health; they are also of importance for competitiveness. Through initiatives relating to investment in tomorrow's technology, infrastructure and renewable energy, it will be easier for both people and industry to make climate-friendly choices while at the same time more jobs are created.

We also believe that an ambitious binding target for energy efficiency within the EU by 2030 is essential. Improvements in energy efficiency, in the form of both energy savings and more intelligent energy use, are an important means of achieving a sustainable society. The fact that energy consumption is rising means that the trend is heading in the wrong direction, and it is clear that the existing instruments are inadequate. We believe that the Council should ask the Commission to return with a proposal for an ambitious binding target for improving energy efficiency by 2030. The fact that the European Parliament has proposed a target of a 40 % improvement in energy efficiency should be taken into consideration in this context. It is also important not to consider energy efficiency measures as costs, but as profitable investments, which also reduce both vulnerability and electricity costs for both households and industry alike.

We therefore propose that Parliament add the statement to the documents.

2. Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 – grounds (MP)

by Jonas Eriksson (MP).

Position

The chances of achieving the target of our climate becoming no more than two degrees warmer are dwindling. Realigning society to make it sustainable in the long term is one of the biggest challenges of our age. Clear global leadership is essential in this context and I believe that the EU must take up this role of leader. As the Green Party's representative on the Committee on Environment and Agriculture has stated, I believe that the path chosen by the EU concerning climate targets will impact on development worldwide. If the EU Member States can reach agreement on a progressive position, the chances of the EU driving forward a global, fair and binding climate agreement at the UN's climate summit in Paris next year will improve. If however the EU fails to show leadership, the negotiations in Paris will be considerably more difficult.

In previous communications, the Commission has clearly indicated that the sustainable, fossil-free society is a possibility, but only if the political ambitions relating to climate and energy are strengthened. At the same time, it is important to emphasise that the road to the sustainable, fossil-free society involves not only major challenges but also huge opportunities. The initiatives that will be required are important not only for climate and human health, but also for competitiveness. The EU must take the lead in the battle for the

climate and unilaterally take on commitments concerning reductions in emissions. The rich countries – which today account for the majority of emissions – must therefore take the initiative.

I therefore view the proposal for a policy framework for climate and energy which the Commission has now presented with some concern and disappointment. The starting point for the new targets is broader than climate alone – it is also a question of how we achieve a sustainable energy system. The fact that the Commission is now only proposing a binding target for greenhouse gas emissions is not enough. In my opinion, the level of 40 % is also far too low. Like the Green Party's representative on the Committee on Environment and Agriculture, I recommend that the target should be a 60 % reduction in emissions within the EU and without any reservations as regards the formulation of the distribution of the burden. In this context, I would also agree with what the Green Party's representative on the Committee on Environment and Agriculture has stated as regards carbon flows from forests and land use, as well as the need for changes to the EU's system for the trading of emission rights.

Today, the energy sector accounts for a high proportion of emissions in Europe and comprehensive changes to the Member States' energy systems are necessary. As a driving force for this, I believe that a binding target of 45 % of energy to come from renewable sources by 2030 is essential. In order to bring about a sustainable society, a stronger focus on energy efficiency, in the form of both energy savings and more intelligent energy use, is also essential. I also support a binding target of a 40 % improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. Both these targets should be binding at Member State level. It should also be noted that the Commission's own analysis indicated that this would not only reduce the threat to the climate but also lead to the generation of many new jobs, reduce dependency on imported gas and carbon power, lower energy costs and improve public health. Energy efficiency measures should also not be seen as costs, but as profitable investments which reduce vulnerability and electricity costs for both households and industry alike.

I therefore propose that Parliament add the statement to the documents.

3. Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 – grounds (SD)

by Anna Hagwall (SD).

Position

The Commission has now presented a proposal for a policy framework for climate and energy in the period to 2030. When the EU's climate and energy policy has been the subject of discussion, the Swedish Democrats and I have repeatedly emphasised the importance of a clear link between undertakings within the EU and efforts to agree binding targets at a global level.

It is also vital that the competitiveness of domestic industry is not reduced with a risk of so-called 'carbon dioxide leakage', i.e. where industry decides to relocate its activity and production to countries with a less ambitious climate policy. In my opinion, the undertakings concerning emission reductions at EU level must not be allowed to threaten the economies of either individual nations or households. The EU may well adopt a leading role in the

international collaboration relating to greenhouse gas emissions, but in the long term it is unrealistic for the EU to take the lead and impose stricter requirements on Member States' industries relative to the global market. Even if the countries of Europe were to have zero emissions, the actual effect on global emissions would be extremely limited. Common objectives at EU level must also not be allowed to shift the focus away from the importance of each nation having control over its own energy supplies and the fact that it is largely up to each country to take responsibility for these issues according to its own circumstances.

I believe that energy efficiency is an important measure, but it should be managed in the first instance at a national level and subject to market conditions. The preconditions vary far too much among the EU Member States for common norms and systems to be applied. Against this background, I welcome the fact that the Commission is not currently proposing any targets for energy efficiency. At the same time, I view with some concern the possibility that such targets may be considered in the long term.

I believe that our dependency on fossil fuels, primarily coal, must be broken in the long term. However, I am not at all convinced that binding targets for the proportion of renewable energy is the best way forward. Nuclear power should be allowed to play a bigger role in the EU's ongoing work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions instead of handing out subsidies to renewable energy production with dubious benefits such as wind power, solar power and biofuels.

As the Swedish Democrats' representative on the Committee on Environment and Agriculture has stated, I am also against pushing for further expensive reductions in emissions in the form of international credits and I also agree with what is said in the dissenting opinion concerning emissions and the capture of greenhouse gases in connection with land use.

I therefore propose that Parliament add the statement to the documents.

4. Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 – grounds (V)

by Kent Persson (V).

Position

Realigning society to become sustainable in the long term is one of the biggest challenges of our age. The Left Party and I are behind an offensive approach to this challenge, unlike the Commission, the Government and the majority of the Committee who do not understand the necessity of comprehensive measures in order to curb the global climate threat.

The EU now has a golden chance to take on the vital role of leader ahead of the impending global climate negotiations. Unfortunately, what the Commission presents is a set of inadequate objectives and an almost empty toolbox. It is even more regrettable that the Government – which claims to have high ambitions relating to climate – applauds the proposals and that the majority of members of both the Committee on Environment and Agriculture and the Committee on Industry and Commerce do the same.

Given that global emissions are continuing to rise and that Europe has historically accounted for a high proportion of total emissions, it is essential that tough targets are set in order to

curb the negative developments relating to climate. I agree with what the Left Party's representative states in the statement by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture and believe that the EU must set a target of zero emissions by no later than 2050 and that all energy generation must be renewable by the same year. By 2030, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least 60 % (compared with 1990) and these reductions must be achieved within Europe. The Left Party and I would therefore not, as the Government is recommending, include emission credits in the formulation of targets. By 2030, energy generation must consist of at least 45 % renewable energy. In addition, the Left Party and I would like to see all enterprises being required to improve their energy efficiency by 40 %. We have also advocated these levels, which should be considered minimum requirements, before the European Parliament

I would also like to lend my support to what the Left Party's representative on the Committee on Environment and Agriculture stated as regards the need for a fundamental reform of the EU's trading system concerning emission rights. The measures proposed by the Commission are however inadequate and should in my opinion include a lower emissions ceiling in the near future in order to overcome the problem of the oversupply of emission rights and the resulting low price of such rights.

By way of conclusion, I would like to put forward my belief that additional measures are necessary at both EU level and national level in order to reduce emissions from the transport and agriculture sectors, for example.

I therefore propose that Parliament add the statement to the documents.

ANNEX 1

List of proposals considered

Communication from the Commission on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 (COM(2014)15).

ANNEX 2

Statement by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture

Statement by the Committee on Environment and Agriculture

2013/14:MJU3y

A policy framework for climate and energy in the period 2020 to 2030

To the Committee on Industry and Commerce

On 6 February, the Committee on Industry and Commerce decided to give the Committee on Environment and Agriculture the opportunity to submit a statement concerning the Communication entitled 'A framework policy for climate and energy in the period 2020 to 2030' (COM(2014)15 final), provided that the Communication is referred to the Committee on Industry and Commerce for review. On 26 February 2014, the Communication was referred to the Committee on Industry and Commerce for review.

The Committee on Environment and Agriculture has decided to submit a statement concerning the aspects of the Communication which fall within the remit of the Committee. The statement contains four dissenting opinions.

The Committee's deliberations

Introduction

The European Council approved in October 2009 and adopted in February 2011 a target for the EU to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95 % by 2050 in order to achieve the 2 °C target. The climate and energy package through to 2020 adopted by the European Council in 2008 contains three climate and energy targets that must be achieved by 2020: greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced by 20 %, the proportion of renewable energy to amount to 20 % of energy consumption and energy efficiency to increase by 20 %.

In 2011, the Commission presented three Roadmaps through to 2050 for the areas of climate and energy and the transport sector. On 27 March 2013, the Commission presented a Green Paper: A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, based on the Roadmaps (COM(2013) 169). The Green Paper called for comments on the scope and structure that the energy and climate targets for 2030 should have.

The Committee sent a statement on the Green Paper to the Committee on Industry and Commerce in June 2013 (2012:MJU5y).

On 22 January 2014, the Commission presented a Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period 2020 to 2030 (COM(2014) 15 final). The Commission believes that key elements of a new policy framework for climate and energy framework through to 2030 should be a greenhouse gas reduction target at EU level which is shared equitably among the Member States in the form of binding national targets; reform of the Emissions Trading System (ETS); an EU-level target for the proportion of renewable energy and a new European governance process for energy and climate policies based on Member State plans for competitive, secure and sustainable energy.

With regard to the greenhouse gas reduction target, the Commission urges the Council and European Parliament to agree by the end of 2014 that, from the start of 2015, the EU will undertake to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 % in the period to 2030 compared with 1990, as an element of the negotiations to be concluded in Paris in December 2015. This target should, according to the Commission, be distributed between the sectors covered by the EU's ETS and non-ETS sectors, as the centrepiece of the EU's energy and climate policy for 2030. The target for the sectors that are not covered by the system for the trading of emission rights should be distributed between the Member States.

The European Parliament's resolution of 5 February 2014 states that the European Parliament recommends that the European Commission and the Member States establish a binding target for the EU of reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 % compared with 1990 levels through to 2030. The European Parliament believes that the level of ambition must facilitate the fulfilment of the 2 °C target in a cost-effective manner and emphasises that this target should be implemented with the aid of national targets for individual Member States, taking into consideration each individual Member State's situation and opportunities.

The Committee on Environment and Agriculture has been given the opportunity to comment on the Commission's Communication on a policy framework for climate and energy in the period 2020 to 2030 and sets out its position below in respect of the aspects of the Communication that fall within the remit of the Committee.

The Committee's position

As the Committee stated in its statement 2012/13:MJU5y, the Committee believes that a 2030 framework should be adopted as soon as possible. It is important that the EU affirms its leadership and acts strongly and constructively to bring about a global climate agreement in Paris in 2015 that maintains global warming below a level of 2 °C. In order to demonstrate its leadership, the EU needs to adopt climate targets ahead of the climate summit, which the UN Secretary-General will hold in September 2014. The Committee therefore welcomes the Commission's Communication proposing an overall policy framework for climate and energy for 2030, but believes that the level of ambition needs to be raised. The Committee furthermore urges the EU to draw up and adopt the framework as soon as possible.

A strong European climate and energy policy will enable actors in industry to take investment decisions based on well-founded assumptions concerning, for example, future emission prices. For this reason, a binding climate target for the EU for 2030 should be adopted as soon as possible. As the Committee has stated previously, it supports an ambitious binding climate target for 2030 which will make it possible to achieve the target of reducing emissions by 80 to 95 % by 2050 in a cost-effective manner. The Committee is aware that the way in which the burden is distributed will have a major impact on each Member State's share of the emission reductions. The Committee supports the Commission's proposal for a 40 % reduction in emissions within the EU provided the distribution of the burden between the Member States is carried out in a cost-effective manner. The Committee welcomes a more ambitious target if it also includes scope for emission reductions abroad, provided that other developed countries take on their share of the burden in international negotiations. Making provision for emission reductions abroad will promote sustainable development, and technology transfer and capacity development in particular, and increase the chances of achieving the climate targets in a cost-effective manner.

The Committee also welcomes the Commission's decision to put forward a proposal to establish a reserve for market stability for the Union's emissions trading system (COM(2014)20 final). The EU's system for the trading of emission rights is pivotal to both the EU's climate policy and achievement of the EU's climate targets in both the short and the long term. It is therefore alarming that the system's price signals have been far too weak in order to steer the long-term investments in the direction that is now needed across Europe. The Committee has therefore previously stated that there is a need to strengthen the credibility of the system and its price signals (2013/14:MJU3). As the Commission notes, an early decision is needed in order to rebuild the system to create a stronger instrument, so that the system can promote low carbon investments effectively and at the lowest cost to society. The Committee notes that the Commission's proposal to establish a reserve does not enter into force until 2021 and would therefore like to see concrete proposals as to how the trading system and its price signals could be strengthened in the near future.

The Committee also wishes to emphasise that all sectors in the economy will need to contribute to cost-effective reductions in emissions within the EU. A central complementary policy within a number of areas may therefore need to be developed as stated in the Communication.

Stockholm, 4 March 2014

On behalf of the Committee on Environment and Agriculture

Matilda Ernkrans

The following members participated in the decision: Matilda Ernkrans (S), Bengt-Anders Johansson (M), Rune Wikström (M), Johan Löfstrand (S), Helén Pettersson in Umeå (S), Åsa Coenraads (M), Anita Brodén (FP), Sara Karlsson (S), Pyy Niemi (S), Christer Akej (M), Helena Leander (MP), Irene Oskarsson (KD), Jens Holm (V), Kristina Nilsson (S), Staffan Danielsson (C), Björn Söder (SD) and Gustav Schyllert (M).

Dissenting opinions

1. **Dissenting opinion (S)**

Matilda Ernkranz (S), Johan Löfstrand (S), Helén Pettersson in Umeå (S), Sara Karlsson (S), Pyry Niemi (S) and Kristina Nilsson (S) state the following:

It is clear to the Social Democrats that Sweden must act in order to strengthen the work relating to climate both in Sweden and internationally.

The European Commission's proposal for new climate targets for 2030 means that the EU is lowering its ambitions. There is however a broad political majority within the European Parliament which supports three binding targets for emission reductions, renewable energy and energy efficiency. There should therefore be an obvious Swedish interest in driving the process to establish three ambitious binding targets.

We Social Democrats wanted to see the EU establish a binding ambitious target to reduce emissions by 50 % by 2030 which does not include purchases via flexible mechanisms. We would also like to note that it is important that the measures that have so far been implemented in order to avoid carbon dioxide leakage from heavy industry, such as the Swedish steel and ore production sector, must remain in place until a global emissions market can be established in this area.

The Committee's positive attitude towards a proposal concerning the purchase of climate measures in third countries is quite simply unrealistic for the simple reason that the supply of CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) and JI (Joint Implementation) falls far short of the quantities that will be involved. In addition to this is the unreasonableness of such purchases, as the idea behind the new climate agreement within the UNFCCC in Paris 2015 is that all countries will participate. The system of CDM and JI in the Kyoto Protocol was of course based on only Annex I countries being given emission reduction requirements. The submission of a proposal concerning the purchase of climate measures in third countries also leads to the difficult question of what will happen after 2030. The fact that EU Member States will be required to purchase CDM and JI for all eternity in order to cover up their own emissions is incompatible with the 2 °C target.

We Social Democrats would also prefer an ambitious target of 40 % renewable energy within the EU by 2030 that is binding to Member States.

As regards a target for energy efficiency within the EU, we believe that an ambitious binding target for 2030 should be established. It is a problem that the Commission has not presented a proposal for a target. We believe that the Commission should return with a proposal for an ambitious binding target for energy efficiency for 2030. In connection with this, we note that the European Parliament proposed a target of a 40 % improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, which needs to be taken into consideration in the assessment.

To the Committee's position we Social Democrats wish to add that it is good to report and have measure plans for LULUCF because of its importance in the work relating to climate. However, there is already considerable scientific uncertainty concerning the development of natural sinks. Carbon sinks must not be used by Sweden or any other EU country to avoid

essential reductions in emissions. Even if the LULUCF calculations were to be included, the targets at both EU and national level must be adjusted so as not to further undermine the climate undertakings.

2. Dissenting opinion (MP)

Helena Leander (MP) states the following:

The EU's Roadmap concerning climate targets affects global development. If the EU can reach agreement on a progressive position, the EU will have a better chance of pushing for a global, fair and binding climate agreement at the UN's climate summit in Paris next year. If however the EU fails to show leadership, the negotiations in Paris will be more difficult.

If the EU is to achieve the upper range of the target of a 80 – 95 % reduction in emissions by 2050, which is matter of decency if the EU is to take its share of the global responsibility, a 40 % reduction in emissions by 2030 is insufficient. I believe that the target should be a 60 % reduction in emissions within the EU, without any clauses concerning the distribution of the burden. In addition, international climate initiatives are important, not least through the UN's Green Climate Fund, but they should not be taken into consideration in the emission target.

As a supplement to the emission target, binding targets (also applicable to Member States) of 45 % renewable energy and a 40 % improvement in energy efficiency are also needed. Compared with only one binding target, this approach has major benefits: the European Commission's analysis indicates that over half a million new jobs will be created, dependency on imported gas and carbon power will be reduced, energy costs will be cut and public health will benefit.

The carbon flows from forest and other land use needs to be taken into consideration in the climate policy, but because of the considerable scientific uncertainty surrounding these flows, they should be regulated in a separate undertaking.

As regards the EU's system for the trading of emission rights (ETS, Emissions Trading Scheme), I wish to emphasise the importance of measures to tighten up the system in the near future. The considerable surplus of emission rights must be permanently removed from the system if the trading system is to fulfil its intended function.

3. Dissenting opinion (SD)

Björn Söder (SD) states the following:

A central opinion for the Swedish Democrats is that any binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must not threaten the economies of either individual nations or households. It is essential that undertakings within the EU are instead linked to efforts to establish binding targets at a global level. We believe it is vital that the competitiveness of both Swedish and European industry is not reduced to the extent that carbon dioxide-generating production relocates to countries with a less ambitious climate policy (so-called 'carbon dioxide leakage') or where other environmental considerations, employment law and human rights are ignored. Given that carbon dioxide emissions are rising markedly elsewhere in the world,

we believe that a deeper impact analysis should be carried out concerning the unilateral introduction of an ambitious climate policy in a limited part of the world. After all, the EU accounts for only around 11 % of global emissions, while emissions from the rest of the world are increasing by the equivalent of one entire EU in less than five years. However, the Swedish Democrats believe that it should be possible to adjust the Member States' undertakings within the policy framework for climate and energy to take account of all major global emitters such as China, USA, India, Russia, Japan, etc.

It is surprising how often a realignment to so-called renewable energy leads to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions in reality. Germany is a clear example of this, where carbon power has expanded considerably despite the world's most ambitious initiatives within solar and wind power. In the light of this, it is somewhat absurd that the importance of nuclear power is not even considered in the discussion. That nuclear power, which has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions of all forms of energy, is in reality placed alongside what is called 'renewables' is in the opinion of the Swedish Democrats a huge mistake. The opinion of the Social Democrats is therefore that nuclear power should be placed alongside so-called 'renewable energy'.

The EU may well adopt a leading role in the international collaboration relating to greenhouse gas emissions, but we believe that it would be unsustainable in the long term for the EU to take the lead and impose considerably tougher restrictions on the industries of the Member States relative to the global market. The Swedish Democrats thus oppose Sweden and the EU unilaterally approving much more demanding reductions in greenhouse gas emissions than is set out in international agreements. In the big picture, Europe is not a significant player, and even if the countries of Europe were to achieve zero emissions, the actual effect on global emissions would be extremely limited.

As a result of the above, the Swedish Democrats are against pushing for further expensive reductions in emissions in the form of international credits. There is also uncertainty as regards the net effects that such a policy would have. The focus in Sweden and Europe should instead be placed on energy research with the aim of developing new forms of energy that are sufficiently cheap to outcompete fossil fuels.

The Swedish Democrats have repeatedly stated that we believe that LULUCF should be taken into consideration in the Member States' targets concerning greenhouse gas emissions. However, we would consider it remarkable if, following negotiations, Member States could only be given credit for new changes in land use. The starting point must of course be to establish the actual net emissions of the countries concerned, taking land use into consideration, and then use the resulting figures as a basis in all calculations.

4. Dissenting opinion (V)

Jens Holm (V) states the following:

The Committee's position ahead of the adoption of the EU's climate and energy targets for 2030 represents a missed opportunity for Sweden to work to ensure that the EU pursues a more ambitious climate and energy policy. The Committee's position does not involve any tightening of the European Commission's proposals. We share the European Commission's view that politically established objectives must be made entirely domestic, without any purchasing of international credits with uncertain climate and environmental benefits.

Europe needs countries that take the lead and take responsibility for our climate. The Left Party therefore puts forwards the following targets: the EU shall have zero emissions by no later than 2050 and all energy generation shall be renewable by the same date. By 2030, the Left Party wants emissions of greenhouse gases to be reduced by at least 60 % compared with 1990, and the reductions are to be made in Europe. By 2030, energy generation must consist of at least 45 % renewable energy. We would also require all enterprises to improve their energy efficiency by 40 %. Given that global emissions are continuing to rise and that Europe has historically accounted for a high proportion of total emissions, these should be considered minimum requirements. We have also put these targets before the European Parliament.

The Left Party also proposes a fundamental reform of the EU's trading scheme for emission rights, EU ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme). The trading scheme should be the EU's most important instrument for reducing emissions and ensuring that the price of polluting is high. We therefore welcome the Commission's proposal for measures to strengthen the trading scheme, which we see as a proposal in the right direction, but the Commission's proposal does not extend far enough. The Left Party wants to see a lower emissions ceiling (i.e. a steeper, linear emissions curve) which corresponds to the requirement to cut total emissions by 60 % by 2030. We also want to see further measures in the near future (i.e. by 2020) in order to overcome the problem of the oversupply of emission rights and the resulting excessively low price of emission rights.

The Left Party also envisages a need for complementary measures at EU and national level in order to reduce emissions from the transport and agriculture sectors, for example, and we would also like to see clearer proposals within this area.