



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2017/2040(INI)

30.5.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies
(2017/2040(INI))

Rapporteur: Biljana Borzan

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the Commission's report but considers that further assessment was needed regarding the implementation of the existing macro-regional strategies, and especially of aspects pertaining to the environment, as one of the pillars of sustainable development;
2. Calls for the concept of environmental integration to be mainstreamed in the design and implementation of various cross-sectoral policies for the current and future macro-regions;
3. Highlights the need to mobilise funds for particular environmental goals of the macro-regions, complementing the existing funding;
4. Stresses the importance of developing monitoring and evaluation tools for various indicators in order to better measure the achievement of environmental targets;
5. Points out that the sea of the Adriatic and Ionian region is threatened by various sources of pollution, including untreated waste, marine litter and eutrophication from agricultural runoff and fish farms; calls therefore on the participating countries to further step up their efforts in tackling these environmental challenges;
6. Stresses that preventing damage caused by massive floods remains one of the great environmental challenges for the countries of the Danube macro-region; highlights that supplementary joint measures to prevent cross-border pollution should be considered;
7. Calls on the stakeholders of the Alpine macro-region to use European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) and other Union funding to promote environment-related investments that have climate change mitigation among their objectives;
8. Considers that further efforts are needed to tackle the environmental challenges faced in the Baltic macro-region, and in particular as regards eutrophication, better protection of the sea itself, air quality and pollution.