



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2017/2053(INI)

14.9.2017

DRAFT OPINION

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

for the Committee on Budgets

on reform of the European Union's system of own resources
(2017/2053(INI))

Rapporteur: Ivo Belet

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses that in order to boost the transition towards a sustainable, circular and low-carbon economy and deliver on the commonly agreed Energy Union targets, significant additional investments are required in the period 2020-2030;
2. Is convinced that tangible progress on these key EU policies requires a thorough reform with a view to a more effective EU budget based on genuine own resources, with a direct and transparent link to investments in projects with clear European added value for citizens and companies;
3. Believes that own resources based on an electricity tax or motor fuel levy continue to encounter strong political opposition and, in the case of an electricity tax, would overlap with the scope of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS); considers, therefore, that these options are not the most suitable instruments of reform for the current system of own resources;
4. Notes that DG Environment accounts for the second largest volume of fines imposed for non-compliance with EU legislation, amounting to EUR 284 million for the period 2014-2017; calls for revenue stemming directly from EU legislation and its enforcement to be invested in common EU projects with tangible added value;
5. Calls for a proportion of the ETS auctioning revenue, from Phase 4 (2021) onwards, to be directed towards concrete common EU projects, such as cross-border energy infrastructure (to facilitate the integration of renewables, for example), energy storage and investments in breakthrough innovation in industry;
6. Calls for an analysis of whether revenue from commonly agreed national road charging schemes, based on distance, journey time and transport emissions, can be used to fund EU projects promoting the development of low-emission mobility, including incentives for zero- and low-emission vehicles, low-emission alternative energy sources for transport, and sustainable multimodal transport, in particular high-speed railways and inland waterways;
7. Believes that possible additional revenue generated from enhanced emission-based contributions by intra-EU aviation should be used to step up research and investment in EU low-carbon aircraft and for further improvements to the efficient use of airspace;
8. Believes that revenue from the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) for third-country nationals should be used to invest in research and development in the field of clean and low-emission air transport and in further improvements to the efficient use of airspace, and to boost funding for the European Border and Coast Guard;
9. Calls for an exploration of the possible introduction of an own resource reflecting the carbon content of consumer goods sold in the single market, such as a carbon-added tax (CAT), that would gradually replace a proportion of the current VAT-based own resource.

