



**European Committee
of the Regions**

ENVE-VI/035

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DRAFT OPINION

Proposal for a Regulation establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013

Rapporteur: **Marco Dus (IT/PES)**
Member of Vittorio Veneto Municipal Council, Treviso

Deadline for tabling amendments:

3 p.m. (Brussels time) on Friday 21 September 2018. Amendments must be submitted using the online tool for tabling amendments (available through the Members' Portal at: <https://memportal.cor.europa.eu/>).

Number of signatures required: 6

A user guide is available at <http://toad.cor.europa.eu/CORHelp.aspx>.

Reference document

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 COM(2018) 385 final- 2018/0209(COD)

Draft opinion of the European Committee of the Regions - Proposal for a Regulation establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013

I. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENTS

Amendment 1

Recital 6

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
(6) For achieving the overarching objectives, the implementation of the Circular economy package ¹ , the 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework ^{2,3,4} , Union nature legislation ⁵ , as well as of related policies ^{6,7,8,9,10} , is of particular importance.	(6) For achieving the overarching objectives, the implementation of the Circular economy package ¹ , the 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework ^{2,3,4} , <i>the seventh General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 and its possible successor</i> ⁵ , Union nature legislation ⁶ , as well as of related policies ^{7,8,9,10,11,12} , is of particular importance.
[1] COM(2015) 614 final, 02.12.20152030	[1] COM(2015) 614 final, 02.12.20152030
[2] Climate and Energy Policy Framework, COM(2014)15, 22.01.2014.	[2] Climate and Energy Policy Framework, COM(2014)15, 22.01.2014.
[3] EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change, COM(2013)216, 16.04.2013.	[3] EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change, COM(2013)216, 16.04.2013.
[4] Clean Energy for all Europeans package, COM(2016) 860, 30.11.2016.	[4] Clean Energy for all Europeans package, COM(2016) 860, 30.11.2016.
[5] Action Plan for nature, people and the economy, COM(2017)198, 27.04.2017.	5[] <i>Decision 1386/2013/EU</i> [6] Action Plan for nature, people and the economy, COM(2017)198, 27.04.2017.
[6] Clean Air Programme for Europe, COM(2013)918.	[7] Clean Air Programme for Europe, COM(2013)918.
[7] Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1).	[8] Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1).
[8] Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, COM(2006)231.	[9] Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection, COM(2006)231.
[9] Low Emission Mobility Strategy, COM/2016/0501 final.	[10] Low Emission Mobility Strategy, COM/2016/0501 final.
[10] Action Plan on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure under Article 10(6) of Directive 2014/94/EU, 8.11.2017.	[11] Action Plan on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure under Article 10(6) of Directive 2014/94/EU, 8.11.2017.

	<p>[12] <i>Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise.</i></p> <p>[13] <i>A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy, COM/2018/028 final.</i></p> <p>[14] <i>Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks.</i></p> <p>[15] <i>Communication Green Infrastructure (GI) - Enhancing Europe's Natural Capital, COM(2013) 249 final.</i></p>
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Reason
Self-explanatory.

Amendment 2

Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission	CoR amendment
<p>(8) The transition to clean energy is an essential contribution to the mitigation of climate change with co-benefits for the environment. Actions for capacity building supporting the clean energy transition, funded until 2020 under Horizon 2020, should be integrated in the Programme since their objective is not to fund excellence and generate innovation, but to facilitate the uptake of already available technology that will contribute to climate mitigation. The inclusion of these capacity building activities into the Programme offers potential for synergies between the sub-programmes and increases the overall coherence of Union funding. Therefore, data should be collected and disseminated on the uptake of existing research and innovation solutions in the LIFE projects, including from the Horizon Europe programme and its predecessors.</p>	<p>(8) The transition to clean energy is an essential contribution to the mitigation of climate change with co-benefits for the environment. Actions for capacity building supporting the clean energy transition, funded until 2020 under Horizon 2020, should be integrated in the Programme, <i>retaining the same co-financing coefficient</i>, since their objective is not to fund excellence and generate innovation, but to facilitate the uptake of already available technology that will contribute to climate mitigation. The inclusion of these capacity building activities into the Programme offers potential for synergies between the sub-programmes and increases the overall coherence of Union funding. Therefore, data should be collected and disseminated on the uptake of existing research and innovation solutions in the LIFE projects, including from the Horizon Europe programme and its predecessors.</p>

Reason
The co-financing rate for regions and cities is 100% under Horizon 2020.

Amendment 3

Recital 9

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>(9) The impact assessments of the Clean Energy legislation estimate that the delivery of the Union's 2030 energy targets will require additional investments of EUR 177 billion annually in the period 2021-2030. The biggest gaps relate to the investments in buildings decarbonisation (energy efficiency and <i>small-scale</i> renewable energy sources), where capital needs to be channelled towards projects of highly distributed nature. One of the objectives of the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme is to build capacity for projects development and aggregation, thereby also helping to absorb funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds and catalyse investments in clean energy also using the financial instruments provided under InvestEU.</p>	<p>(9) The impact assessments of the Clean Energy legislation estimate that the delivery of the Union's 2030 energy targets will require additional investments of EUR 177 billion annually in the period 2021-2030. The biggest gaps relate to the investments in buildings decarbonisation (energy efficiency and <i>decentralised</i> renewable energy sources, <i>geared in particular to energy consumption for heating and air conditioning</i>), where capital needs to be channelled towards projects of highly distributed nature, <i>for example by promoting pilot projects located in small conurbations</i>. One of the objectives of the Clean Energy Transition sub-programme is to build capacity for projects development and aggregation, thereby also helping to absorb funds from the European Structural and Investment Funds and catalyse investments in clean energy also using the financial instruments provided under InvestEU.</p>

Reason

Decarbonisation of the buildings sector is a crucial step to achieving the EU's climate and energy objectives and, consequently, to successfully meeting the Paris Agreement objectives. It is however important to focus greater attention on energy consumption for heating and air conditioning, as it accounts for a major part of European energy consumption.

Amendment 4

Recital 12

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>(12) The Union's most recent Environmental Implementation Review package¹ indicates that significant progress is required to accelerate implementation of the Union environment acquis and enhance the integration of environmental and climate objectives into other policies. The Programme should therefore act as a catalyst to achieve the required progress through developing, testing and replicating new approaches;</p>	<p>(12) The Union's most recent Environmental Implementation Review package¹ indicates that significant progress is required to accelerate implementation of the Union environment acquis and enhance the integration of environmental and climate objectives into other policies. The Programme should therefore act as a catalyst to achieve the required progress through developing, testing and replicating new approaches;</p>

<p>supporting policy development, monitoring and review; enhancing stakeholder involvement; mobilising investments across Union investment programmes or other financial sources and supporting actions to overcome the various obstacles to the effective implementation of key plans required by environment legislation.</p>	<p>supporting policy development, monitoring and review; <i>promoting greater awareness and communication; developing good governance;</i> enhancing stakeholder involvement; mobilising investments across Union investment programmes or other financial sources and supporting actions to overcome the various obstacles to the effective implementation of key plans required by environment legislation.</p>
<p>[1] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - The EU Environmental Implementation Review: Common challenges and how to combine efforts to deliver better results (COM(2017) 63 final of 3 February 2017).</p>	<p>[1] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - The EU Environmental Implementation Review: Common challenges and how to combine efforts to deliver better results (COM(2017) 63 final of 3 February 2017).</p>

<i>Reason</i>
<p>Improved governance, in particular through awareness raising and stakeholder involvement, is essential to deliver environmental objectives. These are priorities explicitly set out in the previous LIFE programme and the Committee of the Regions considers they should be kept.</p>

Amendment 5

Recital 17

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>(17) The Union's long-term objective for air policy is to achieve levels of air quality that do not cause significant negative impacts on and risks to human health. Public awareness about air pollution is high and citizens expect authorities to act. Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council stresses the role Union funding can play in achieving clean air objectives. Therefore, the Programme should support projects, including strategic integrated projects, which have the potential to leverage public and private funds, to be showcases of good practice and catalysts for the implementation of air quality plans and legislation at local, regional, multi-regional, national and trans-national level.</p>	<p>(17) The Union's long-term objective for air policy is to achieve levels of air quality that do not cause significant negative impacts on and risks to human health. Public awareness about air pollution is high and citizens expect authorities to act. Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council stresses the role Union funding can play in achieving clean air objectives. Therefore, the Programme should support projects, including strategic integrated projects, which have the potential to leverage public and private funds, to be showcases of good practice and catalysts for the implementation of air quality plans and legislation at local, regional, multi-regional, national and trans-national level. <i>These efforts to improve air quality should be</i></p>

	<i>consistent with greenhouse gas reduction requirements and with the long-term need to decarbonise the entire European economy, progressively replacing fossil fuel-based infrastructure with infrastructure based on renewable sources, where technically possible.</i>
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Reason
Air quality is directly linked to fossil fuel combustion for transport, heating and air conditioning and, generally, for generating electricity. Decarbonising these sectors therefore has a direct impact on air quality and public health. Where an alternative based on a renewable energy source exists, the LIFE programme should never finance the replacement of appliances emitting high levels of greenhouse gas with equipment that is more efficient but is still based on fossil energy.

Amendment 6

New recital 17a after recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission	CoR amendment
	<i>(17a) Particular attention should be focused on promoting a shift away from sources of air pollution, in particular domestic heating appliances and power stations based on fossil fuels. In order to tackle the problem of air pollution, efforts should focus on a transition to renewable energy sources, encouraging a medium/long-term view.</i>

Reason
Carbon-based domestic heating is a major source of air pollution in the EU and has a harmful impact on public health. Where technically possible, a shift to renewable energy sources should be facilitated, in keeping with the decarbonisation targets for the buildings sector, as set out in the Buildings Energy Performance Directive.

Amendment 7

Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission	CoR amendment
(20) The improvement of governance on environmental, climate change and related clean energy transition matters requires involvement of civil society by raising public awareness, consumer engagement, and broadening of stakeholder involvement, including non-	(20) The improvement of governance on environmental, climate change and related clean energy transition matters requires involvement of civil society by raising public awareness, <i>partly by means of a communication strategy that reflects the new media and social networks and boosts</i>

<p>governmental organisations, in consultation on and implementation of related policies.</p>	<p>consumer engagement, and broadening of stakeholder involvement, including non-governmental organisations, in consultation on and implementation of related policies. <i>Moreover, engaging and empowering local and regional authorities - the level of government closest to citizens, in keeping with the subsidiarity principle - can contribute to achieving substantial environment-, energy- and climate-related results, as demonstrated by the growing success of the Covenant of Mayors initiative.</i></p>
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<i>Reason</i>
<p>It is important to highlight the need for modern communication and to mention the Covenant of Mayors, which is now a highly successful, world-wide initiative to engage and empower the level of government closest to citizens.</p>

Amendment 8

Recital 22

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>(22) The Programme should prepare and support market players for the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy by testing new business opportunities, upgrading professional skills, facilitating consumers' access to sustainable products and services, engaging and empowering influencers and testing novel methods to adapt the existing processes and business landscape. To support a broader market uptake of sustainable solutions, general public acceptance and consumer engagement should be promoted.</p>	<p>(22) The Programme should prepare and support market players for the shift towards a clean, circular, energy-efficient, low-carbon and climate-resilient economy by testing new business opportunities, upgrading professional skills, facilitating consumers' access to sustainable products and services, engaging and empowering influencers and testing novel methods to adapt the existing processes and business landscape. To support a broader market uptake of sustainable solutions, <i>particularly the development of innovative and renewable energy technologies</i>, general public acceptance and consumer engagement should be promoted.</p>

<i>Reason</i>
<p>As a result of technological developments, market developments and (also) public support, the cost of installing renewable energy systems has fallen considerably over the last ten years. We should continue along this path so as to allow Europe's energy potential to be fully tapped, exploiting so far little-used alternative energy sources (such as marine or geothermal energy) and building up the EU's energy independence from third countries.</p>

Amendment 9

Recital 25

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
(25) In the implementation of the Programme due consideration should be given to the strategy for outermost regions ³⁰ in view of Article 349 TFEU and the specific needs and vulnerabilities of these regions. Union policies other than environmental, climate and relevant clean energy transition policies should also be taken into account.	(25) In the implementation of the Programme due consideration should be given to the strategy for outermost regions ³⁰ in view of Article 349 TFEU and the specific needs and vulnerabilities of these regions. Union policies other than environmental, climate, <i>circular economy</i> and relevant clean energy transition policies should also be taken into account.

<i>Reason</i>
Self-explanatory.

Amendment 10

New recital 26a after recital 26

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
	(26a) <i>The European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (ECTC) are eligible and can serve as a legal instrument to implement the LIFE programme. The EGTCs have a structure comparable to that of consortia and most operate on a transnational basis. As a result of these characteristics, they can provide centralised management of project management at operational and financial level.</i>

<i>Reason</i>
The use of EGTCs needs to be promoted, and their eligibility as consortia to be ensured.

Amendment 11

Article 5(3)

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
(3) The amounts referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be without prejudice to provisions on flexibility set out in Regulation (EU) ... of the European Parliament and of the Council [the new Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation] and the Financial Regulation.	(3) The amounts referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be without prejudice to provisions on flexibility set out in Regulation (EU) ... of the European Parliament and of the Council [the new Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation] and the Financial Regulation.

	<p><i>(3a) The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 21 in order to increase the percentage referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article by a maximum of 10 %, provided that the total funds requested over two consecutive years by way of proposals that fall under the priority area of Nature and Biodiversity and that meet minimum quality requirements exceed by more than 20 % the corresponding amount calculated for the two years preceding those years.</i></p>
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<i>Reason</i>
<p>Self-explanatory. To restore the flexibility clause for the Nature and Biodiversity sub-programme, as it currently stands in the 2014-2020 LIFE programme.</p>

Amendment 12

Article 5(5)

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>(5) The Programme may finance activities implemented by the Commission in support of the preparation, implementation and mainstreaming of Union environmental, climate or relevant clean energy transition legislation and policies for the purpose of achieving the objectives set out in Article 3. Such activities may include:</p> <p>(a) information and communication, including awareness raising campaigns. Financial resources allocated to communication activities pursuant to this Regulation shall also cover corporate communication regarding the political priorities of the Union, as well as regarding the implementation and transposition status of Union environmental, climate or relevant clean energy legislation;</p> <p>(b) studies, surveys, modelling and scenario building;</p> <p>(c) preparation, implementation, monitoring, checking and evaluation of projects not funded by the Programme, policies,</p>	<p>(5) The Programme may finance activities implemented by the Commission in support of the preparation, implementation and mainstreaming of Union environmental, climate or relevant clean energy transition legislation and policies for the purpose of achieving the objectives set out in Article 3. Such activities may include:</p> <p>(a) information and communication, including awareness raising campaigns. Financial resources allocated to communication activities pursuant to this Regulation shall also cover corporate communication regarding the political priorities of the Union, as well as regarding the implementation and transposition status of Union environmental, climate or relevant clean energy legislation;</p> <p>(b) studies, surveys, modelling and scenario building;</p> <p>(c) preparation, implementation, monitoring, checking and evaluation of projects not funded by the Programme, actions to improve governance, policies, programmes</p>

<p>programmes and legislation;</p> <p>(d) workshops, conferences and meetings;</p> <p>(e) networking and best-practice platforms;</p> <p>(f) other activities.</p>	<p>and legislation;</p> <p>(d) workshops, conferences and meetings;</p> <p>(e) networking and best-practice platforms;</p> <p>(f) other activities.</p>
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<i>Reason</i>
Self-explanatory.

Amendment 13
Article 11(5)

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>(5) Legal entities participating in consortia of at least three independent entities, established in different Member States or overseas countries or territories linked to those states or third countries associated to the Programme or other third countries, are eligible.</p>	<p>(5) Legal entities participating in consortia of at least three independent entities, established in different Member States or overseas countries or territories linked to those states or third countries associated to the Programme or other third countries, are eligible.</p> <p><i>(5a) The European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTCs) shall be treated as consortia, established in different Member States or overseas countries or territories linked to those states</i></p>

<i>Reason</i>
The use of EGTCs needs to be promoted, and their eligibility as consortia to be ensured.

Amendment 14
Article 13(a)

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
<p>(a) projects financed by the Programme shall <i>avoid undermining</i> environmental, climate or <i>relevant clean</i> energy objectives of the Programme and, where possible, shall promote the use of green public procurement;</p>	<p>(a) projects financed by the Programme shall <i>contribute to meeting at least one of the</i> environmental, climate, <i>circular economy transition</i> or <i>sustainable</i> energy objectives of the Programme, <i>without undermining the other objectives</i> and, where possible, shall promote the use of green public procurement;</p>

Reason
The LIFE programme should not only "avoid undermining" the EU's environmental, climate and energy objectives, but should actively contribute to meeting them. In addition, the wording on "relevant clean energy" seems excessively vague.

Amendment 15

Article 13(f)

Text proposed by the Commission	CoR amendment
(f) where appropriate, special regard shall be given to projects in geographical areas with specific needs or vulnerabilities, such as areas with specific environmental challenges or natural constraints, <i>trans-border</i> areas or outermost regions.	(f) where appropriate, special regard shall be given to projects in geographical areas with specific needs or vulnerabilities, such as areas with specific environmental challenges (<i>e.g. areas with acknowledged air quality problems</i>) or natural constraints, <i>cross-border</i> areas (<i>projects in which transnational cooperation is crucial to ensuring that the environment is protected and climate objectives achieved</i>) or outermost regions.

Reason
It would be helpful to focus greater attention on transnational cooperation and the air quality problem. [Translator's note: the amendment of "trans-border" to "cross-border" affects the English version only]

Amendment 16

New article following Article 13

Text proposed by the Commission	CoR amendment
	<p><i>Eligibility of project costs relating to VAT and staff</i></p> <p><i>1. Conditions for the eligibility of costs are laid down in Article 126 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. Such costs shall include VAT and staff costs.</i></p> <p><i>The Commission shall provide an overview, in the mid-term and ex-post evaluations of the LIFE Programme, of VAT reimbursements per Member State that project beneficiaries under the LIFE Programme have requested at the final payment stage.</i></p>

	<p>2. <i>Recoverable VAT is not eligible whether or not the applicant elects to recover. VAT does not constitute eligible expenditure except where it is genuinely and definitively borne by the final beneficiary. VAT which is recoverable, by whatever means, cannot be considered eligible, even if it is not actually recovered by the final beneficiary or individual recipient. The public or private status of the final beneficiary or the individual recipient is not taken into account for the determination whether VAT constitutes eligible expenditure in application of the provisions of this rule.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Non-recoverable VAT can be claimed as an eligible cost provided their claim is substantiated by appropriate evidence from the organisations' auditors or accountants. VAT which is not recoverable by the final beneficiary or individual recipient by virtue of the application of specific national rules will only constitute eligible expenditure where such rules are in full compliance with Directive EC/2006/112 on VAT.</i></p>
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<i>Reason</i>
The amendment reproduces a previous CoR opinion (rapporteur: Ms Twitchen, ENVI-V/018). VAT was considered to act as a deterrent to participation in earlier versions of the LIFE programme.

Amendment 17

Article 21(4)

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
(4) Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making.	(4) Before adopting a delegated act, the Commission shall consult experts designated by each Member State in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making <i>and, if appropriate, the Commission shall consult the local and regional authorities directly and launch public</i>

	<i>consultations.</i>
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<i>Reason</i>
Local and regional authorities should be specifically mentioned.

Amendment 18

A new Article 21a after Article 21

<i>Text proposed by the Commission</i>	<i>CoR amendment</i>
	<p><i>Committee Procedure</i></p> <p><i>1. The Commission shall be assisted by the Committee for the LIFE Programme for the Environment and Climate Action. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.</i></p> <p><i>2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.</i></p> <p><i>Where the committee delivers no opinion, the Commission shall not adopt the draft implementing act and the third subparagraph of Article 5(4) of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.</i></p>

<i>Reason</i>
The amendment reproduces Article 30 of the current regulation on the LIFE programme (Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013), in order to ensure greater participation in and monitoring of implementation of the LIFE programme.

II. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

General comments

1. welcomes the proposal by the European Commission which, with its unreserved reconfirmation of the LIFE programme for the next MFF, explicitly acknowledges its success and the European added value generated thus far;
2. welcomes the fact that the proposal for a regulation makes specific reference to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and that it helps to ensure that climate objectives will account for 25% of the MFF budget. The Committee of the Regions urges that all the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals be explicitly recognised and upheld in the EU budget;
3. underlines the substantial direct impact for local and regional authorities that the LIFE programme has already demonstrated by preserving biodiversity, enhancing the quality of the environment and thus helping to reduce and mitigate the drastic effects of climate change, a struggle where local and regional authorities are in the front line;
4. approves the proposal to increase the budget for the LIFE programme under the MFF by 60%. It points out, however, that this budget increase corresponds in part to an extension of areas eligible for funding under the future LIFE programme (such as the new Clean Energy Transition sub-programme that will fund projects that come under the Horizon 2020 programme in the current MFF);
5. in the light of the proposed cuts to the ERDF and EAFRD budgets, is concerned that the funds available to local and regional authorities for projects linked to climate and energy transition policies may suffer an overall reduction in the forthcoming 2021-2027 MFF;
6. regrets the absence of any reference to the LIFE Committee in the European Commission's proposal. It considers that the LIFE Committee should not be abolished: rather, it should promote the more effective involvement of local and regional authorities in the programme;
7. welcomes the decision to emphasise project quality, avoiding binding, geographically-determined advance allocations (while promoting fair and balanced distribution between projects), and supports the attempt to simplify the programme regulation. The Committee however warns of the risk of relegating too many aspects to second-level delegated acts;
8. considers it essential to enhance the LIFE programme by ensuring that successful projects can be replicated, and using it as a catalyst to attract further funding (private and public, starting with the European Regional Development Fund). It calls on the Commission to put in place appropriate arrangements for information, dissemination and technical assistance in order to encourage and support participation by local and regional authorities in the programme. To this end, it also recommends promoting networking schemes between the national contact points, in order to facilitate exchange of best practices and transnational cooperation;

9. understands and accepts the need to facilitate the mobilisation of private capital, not least for environmental investment, but urges the Commission to provide further clarification on the "blending operations" and on the results of the pilot projects funded through financial instruments under the 2014-2020 LIFE programme.

Brussels, ...

III. PROCEDURE

Title	Proposal for a Regulation establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 293/2013
Reference(s)	Proposal for a regulation establishing a programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 293/2013 COM(2018) 385 final- 2018/0209(COD)
Legal basis	Mandatory referral: TFEU/art 192
Procedural basis	Rules 41 (a) and 43 of the CoR Rules of Procedure
Date of Commission letter	1 June 2018
Date of Parliament letter	27 June 2018
Date of Council letter	2 July 2018
Date of Bureau/President's decision	8 June 2018
Commission responsible	Commission for Environment, Climate Change and Energy
Rapporteur general	Marco DUS (IT/PES) Member of Vittorio Veneto Municipal Council, Treviso
Analysis	31 July 2018
Discussed in commission	Exploratory debate 27 September 2018
Date adopted by commission	n.a.
Result of the vote in commission (majority, unanimity)	n.a.
Date adopted in plenary	Scheduled for 8-10 October 2018
Previous Committee opinions	Mid-term evaluation of the LIFE programme Rapporteur: Witold STĘPIEŃ (PL/EPP) ENVE-VI/016 121st plenary session, 8-9 February 2017 COR-2016-04126-00-00-AC-TRA Proposal for a regulation of the Council and the European Parliament on the establishment of Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) Rapporteur: Kay TWITCHEN (UK/NL) ENVE-V/018 COR-2012-00086-00-00-AC-TRA
Date of subsidiarity monitoring consultation	n.a.