



Parlamentul României Senat

Bucharest, June 18, 2020

Courtesy translation

OPINION of the SENATE OF ROMANIA

on the Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 (European Climate Law) COM (2020) 80 final

The Romanian Senate has examined the Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 (European Climate Law) – COM (2020) 80 final, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 2).

Taking into account the report of May 8, 2020 of the Committee for European Affairs, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session of June 12, 2020

1. Considers that:

- a) this proposal, implemented by all actors involved, at all levels of government, ensures a stable growth, sustainability and favourable inclusion at territory level;
- b) it is mandatory to bear in mind that the financial support provided by the European Union to each member state, in order to achieve the ambitious stated goals, must be properly balanced with the financial needs and ability of each member state, in such a way that the set goals do not exceed the financial support capacity of each member state;

2. Recommends that:

- a. it would be useful that article 3, paragraph 3. after point (i) to be completed with a new letter (i¹), which should include the following text: "(i¹) international cooperation regarding global developments on the establishment of the framework for achieving climate neutrality". We support this addition with the following arguments:
 - i. Consistency with the support of the "Statement of Reasons" basis in terms of point (10) as well as "The Union is a world leader in the transition to climate neutrality and is committed to contributing on taking more ambitious global

- goals and consolidating its answers to the global climate changes, using all of the tools that are available, including diplomacy in the climate field”;
- ii. Consistency with the Paris Agreement, being the appropriate framework for the United Nations on climate change, respectively the provision of Article 7, paragraph 8 of the Agreement, in the sense that "The United Nations organization and specialized agencies are encouraged to support efforts of the parties to implement the actions referred to in paragraph (7) from the present article, regarding the provisions of paragraph (5) of this article”;
- b. with regard to including in the Regulation of the EU the Climate Neutrality target until 2050 (mandatory) as a collective target,
 - i. in our opinion, the EU level cannot be reached without the commitment of all Member States (MS);
 - ii. it is necessary to introduce clear provisions on climate neutrality in 2050 at Member State level, based on correct analysis and decision of the assessment on the costs and benefits at Member State level, in conjunction with potential efficient solutions and covering the generated economic and social costs;
 - iii. it is necessary to explicitly include in the regulation a numerical target for 2030 (55%), a decision that we support to be taken at the highest political level (eg. European Council meetings);
 - c. it is necessary to establish a unitary framework, which can ensure an irreversible process for the gradual reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions and the increase of absorption capacity of forests, other natural environment or, other modifications that may absorb the CO₂ emissions from the atmosphere, paying close attention to the following elements:
 - i. clarification of the text describing the irreversible nature of the process;
 - ii. clarification of the text regarding the alignment of the sectors that will contribute to the achievement of the 2050 target (it should be noted that not all sectors that contribute to the achievement of the 2050 targets also contribute to the achievement of the 2030 targets);
 - iii. the introduction in the text of the law of some definitions (e.g. absorption through the natural environment - forests or other ways) to provide a higher note of concreteness and, implicitly, of applicability of the text;
 - d. it is necessary to include a timetable for the presentation by the COM of a comprehensive plan, to increase the 2030 target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from at least 40% to about 50-55% (September 2020) and EU legislation to implement the new 2030 target (June 2021), as follows:
 - i. after making decisions on the new 2030 target, members will draft national plans to integrate energy-climate change - PNIESC; the whole process of finalizing the PNIESCs will have to be resumed also from the perspective of alignment with the 2050 objective;
 - ii. we note the issues related to the subject regarding the lack of funding for the transition to climate neutrality and consider that such issues must be taken into account as a matter of urgency;
 - e. it is necessary to establish and adopt the emission reduction path to achieve the 2050 target and review it every 5 years, being a tool for assessing progress towards the 2050 target. We suggest definitive principles criteria and a clear way in which will establish the reduction trajectory, taking into account: national circumstances, technological neutrality (eg. choosing the best available technologies), energy mix,

- food security, nature and biodiversity, principles for obtaining energy from renewable sources;
- f. it is necessary to include the obligation to renew strategies and plans to adapt to the effects generated by climate change, so that the framework for implementing risk management is well defined, based on assessments aimed at vulnerability to these effects. We support the proposal to create a new EU strategy regarding the adaptation and the legal basis for reporting.
 - g. it is necessary to monitor the measures adopted and the progress made towards achieving the 2050 target, at EU level, as well as the measures adopted at national level (through PNIESC and biennial progress reports). We propose to take into account the legal provisions on the evaluation of measures implemented by member states, using the EU trajectory, respectively, what are the repercussions if a member state does not implement the COM recommendations or its own commitments;
 - h. it is necessary to amend the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union in order to align with the provisions of Climate Law - 2050 objective. We recommend increasing attention in order to avoid duplication of requirements.

**p. President of the Senate
Robert-Marius CAZANCIUC**