



North West Network Third Sector European Network

Influencing ESF: Have your say

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King Baudouin Foundation (KBF) ESF Task Force



- Climate Change Mitigation Policies and Social Justice in Europe
 - Background
 - Policy Context: EU 2020 and ESF
 - Aims of the Task Force
 - Recommendations and feeding your views



Background

“Climate Change mitigation must not forget Europe’s poor”

- Vladimír Špidla , European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (10-09-2009)

“We need to start a discussion at all levels of society on how to best integrate solutions for social inequality into climate change mitigation policy. This is the goal of a project recently launched by the King Baudouin Foundation. Building upon the work that the Commission services initiated earlier this year, the Foundation will bring together experts in climate change and social justice to debate the importance of a joint approach to achieve social fairness in mitigation policies in Europe.

Background

- Climate Change Mitigation Policies and Social Justice in Europe: Striking the right balance between action on climate change and social justice in Europe
 - Launched in November 2009
- Looking at how to develop a joined approach which combines effective measures to fight climate change with social fairness in Europe
 - Identifying social justice priorities in the climate change mitigation debate
 - Define policy goals and options
 - Proposing recommendations and guidelines for the integration of social justice concerns into climate change policies

Background

- KBF was tasked to look at forthcoming policy initiatives with an impact upon both climate change mitigation and social justice were identified
 - Energy Efficiency Action Plan,
 - Energy Taxation Directive,
 - European Social Fund Regulation
- A small, expert taskforce was to be constituted to examine each of these initiatives and offer practical policy recommendations on how to balance climate change mitigation with social justice and provide the Commission with suggestions as to how those twin objectives could be supported within each proposal

ESF Taskforce

- Comprising of six experts drawn from different backgrounds. Experts were drawn from different sectors, including representatives from civil society, public authorities, academia, and business
- Aims to identify recommendations to strengthen the links between climate change and social justice in relation to the new ESF Regulation
 - First meeting in February
 - Discussing suggestions for policy recommendations which KBF can propose to policy-makers



Policy Context



ESF

The aim of the ESF (Article 162 TFEU) is

- "[...] to improve employment opportunities for workers in the internal market and contribute thereby to raising the standard of living",
- "render the employment of workers easier and to increase their geographical and occupational mobility within the Union, and to facilitate their adaptation to industrial changes and to changes in production systems, in particular through vocational training and retraining".

Europe 2020

Europe 2020 pursues smart, sustainable and inclusive growth aiming to “turn the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion”

- Increase the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75%;
- Reduce the early-school leavers rate to 10% and increase the share of the population aged 30-34 having completed third level education to at least 40% in 2020;
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% compared to 1990 levels, 30% if the conditions are right; increase the share of renewable energy sources in final energy consumption to 20%; and increase by 20% its energy efficiency;
- Lift at least 20 million people out of poverty

Cohesion Policy and Europe 2020

- Economic, social and territorial cohesion will remain at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy to ensure that all energies and capacities are mobilised and focused on the pursuit of the strategy's priorities
- Cohesion policy “should become the standard bearer for the objectives of smart, inclusive and sustainable growth of the Europe 2020 strategy in all regions”

Timetable

- October 2010 – Budget review paper
- November 2010 – Fifth Cohesion Report
- Jan/Feb 2011 – Fifth Cohesion Forum
- Spring 2011 – Proposals for Financial Perspective
- **Summer 2011 – Proposals for Cohesion policy legislative package**
- Summer 2011-2012 – Negotiations
- End 2012(?) – Council/Parliament agreement
- 2013 – Preparation (programming) for new period
- 2014 – Launch of new programmes

ESF and Climate Change

Recommendations

- The ESF should promote projects that combine environmental and social policies, carbon-reduction and poverty alleviation targets
- Recommendations for specific actions targeted at promoting access to low-carbon jobs for those at risk of social exclusion, and other ESF target groups
- Engagement is particularly important for those at risk of social exclusion, who must be given a proper chance to participate through capacity building
- Making green jobs more accessible and attractive to women, ethnic minorities, and young people
- Greater involvement from civil society organisations in the delivery of the agenda
- ????



ESF and Climate Change



To feed your thoughts and to be kept informed with the progress of the Task Force please contact :

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Thank you for your
attention

