

West Coast Model European Union 2020 Communication from the Presidency



Heads of Government

As we approach the first milestone of the Paris Agreements in 2020, it is increasingly clear how critical the coming decades will be for the European Union's climate and environmental initiatives. With the United States withdrawing from the Agreement, and developing states around the world in many cases either not participating or facing fundamental challenges in meeting the Agreement's goals, it is vital that the EU act collectively and effectively in moving forward. With this in mind, the Presidency offers two proposals:

Proposal 1: EIB Purge of Fossil Fuel Projects – The European Investment Bank is one of the EU's primary tools for enacting long-term environmental projects. Currently proposed is a process of purging EIB's lending portfolio of fossil fuel related projects entirely, over an as yet unspecified period. Please provide policy guidance on this proposal, including whether fossil-fuel projects should be reduced or deprecated versus entirely purged, and over what time frame. Initial drafts calling for zero fossil fuel projects in EIB's lending portfolio have been met with suggestions of a more moderate approach.

Proposal 2: Support Lagging EU Members Towards Compliance with Paris Agreement goals. As the EU approaches the 2020 update and implementation deadline for the Paris Agreement goals, there are several member states lagging significantly behind on their individual implementation. Proposed is an EUR 10b fund of loans and grants intended to assist lagging members on their progress towards the Paris 2020 goals and work towards being on track for our new 2030 goals. The Presidency requests guidance as to how much a member state needs to miss targets by to be considered 'lagging', and what benefits members so designated will receive.

Labor/Commerce Ministers

Recent decades have seen substantial progress on the opportunities for women, cultural and ethnic minorities, immigrants and other groups who have historically had less opportunity to fully participate in the employment market and the rest of society. The Presidency takes very seriously the need to make continuing progress on these issues, and offers the following proposals/requests for policy guidance:

Proposal 1: Update 2016-2019 Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality. We have reached the end of the time period covered by the 2016-2019 Gender Equality Strategy, and while there are clear major strides forward, it is self-evident that there remains much to be done in this area. For 2016-2019, the key priorities were:

- increasing female labor market participation and economic independence of women and men
- reducing the gender pay, earnings and pension gaps and thus fighting poverty among women
- promoting equality between women and men in decision-making
- combating gender-based violence and protecting and supporting victims
- promoting gender equality and women's rights across the world

Please bring Draft Resolutions aimed at expanding and enhancing these goals. The Presidency further proposes an EUR 50m rotating loan fund over the 2021-2028 Financial Framework period, to be accessible by applications to the Commission from programs operated by member states.

Proposal 2: Job Training and Cultural Integration Programs. The opportunity for full participation in society is a fundamental aspect of life in the European Union. In many cases, effective and meaningful employment is a key stepping stone in that process. For both immigrants new to the European Union, and those displaced by economic changes such as a loss of manufacturing jobs or a shift from agricultural employment to urban situations, effective retraining programs are a key element of maintaining engagement for vulnerable demographics. The Presidency proposes three new programs:

1. An EUR 20m/year grant program for member states to supplement domestic funding for integration programs
2. An EUR 10m annual grant fund for research into best practices for Cultural Integration projects, applications accepted from member states looking to validate and expand their existing projects as leadership models for the EU as a whole.
3. Enhancing existing national Rural Development job retraining projects by EUR 350m/year, with a focus on member states experiencing a significant transition from a rural towards urban workforce, and those with substantial displacement from traditional industries.