



Climate emergency: decisions postponed to November 2020

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Introduction

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In this context, these Notebooks want to help disseminate information, critical analyses, possible answers to the priority problems they face among students and the public to whom Armadilla addresses. For five years, a relevant topic has been proposed for international cooperation every month. We thank everyone for the interest and recognition that these works have obtained. The collection of all Notebooks from 2015 to today is located in: <http://armadilla.coop/quaderni/>

In this notebook we re-propose the issue of the climate emergency after the disappointing conclusions of the United Nations summit, COP25, which was held in Madrid in December 2019. In particular, we report the resolution of the European Parliament as a commitment for member states to take responsibility that belongs to him.

COP25 was one of the most tense and excited conventions on the climate in recent years, which ended late and with the adoption of 37 documents which, once again, displeased many. The negotiating tables produced unanimously defined insufficient results, lower than what could be produced by the COP. Disappointment was expressed both by the UN Secretary General António Guterres and by the UNFCCC (*United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* - <https://unfccc.int/>) Patricia Espinosa.

It must be said, however, that some of the expectations and requests could hardly have been met by COP25, given its agenda and the structure and timing of the multilateral climate negotiation. For example, **it was not the task of this COP to increase the level of commitment to reduce emissions in order to respond to the great mobilisations that have been seen in 2019.** Those who measure the failure of the COP25 on this basis are destined to be disappointed in many other future COPs. . And everything has been postponed for at least six months, in Bonn, when there will be a new meeting that will then lead to the crucial appointment of November 2020, with the Cop26 in Glasgow. **Among the most divisive issues addressed at the UN conference, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on rules intended to regulate international carbon markets. Madrid's only success concerns the commitment of rich countries to indicate their national climate contribution within the next year.** Vulnerable countries, victims of extreme weather events (such as small Pacific islands), have obtained that the wealthiest countries indicate by next year how much their commitments will increase by 2030 to cut greenhouse gases, at the origin of the global warming. At the Cop26 of November 2020 in Glasgow, no country will be able to circumvent this commitment. In an interview with VaticanNews, **UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he was "disappointed", saying that "the international community has lost an important opportunity to show greater ambition" in addressing the climate change crisis.** "We don't have to give up, and I won't give up," he added. In the inaugural speech of Cop25, Guterres had highlighted how humanity is at a crossroads. "By the end of the next decade we will be on one of two paths: one is the path of surrender, on which we walked dormant beyond the point of no return, putting at risk - he said - the health and safety of everyone on this planet . Do we really want to be remembered as the generation who hid their heads in the sand, who stalled while the planet was on fire? The other is

the path of hope. A path of determination, of sustainable solutions. A path - added Guterres - in which all fossil fuels remain where they should be, underground, and where we will be well advanced to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 ".

Pope Francis had sent a message to the conference participants, inviting them not to miss this opportunity to "preserve our common home". The pope then expressed regret for the delay with which the international community is facing climate change, which he called "one of the main challenges for humanity". In the fifth chapter of the encyclical *Laudato 'Francesco* called international politics into question, not sparing a severe judgment on the world summits relating to the environment which, in recent years, "have not met expectations" for a "lack of political decision".

Countries such as Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Russia, India, China and South Africa are hindering progress in the negotiation for various reasons. Beyond the difference between "traditional" and "emerging" polluters, the United States also ends up on the dock: President Donald Trump's decision to quit the Paris Accords will only take effect on November 4, 2020, the day after the American presidential election. Scientific studies presented during the Madrid Summit have shown that greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 4% since 2015 and that we will have to cut them by 7% per year for the next 10 years if we want to avoid the point of no return.

1. Conclusions of the COP25 in Madrid

COP 25 had the motto "Time for action" and should have been, according to the Chilean presidency, an opportunity to deploy new ambitions in view of the commitment for 2020, taken in Paris in previous conferences. **To date, only 80 countries (out of 193 UN members), mainly small and developing countries, have declared their intention to improve their NDC (Voluntary National Contributions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change) by 2020**, representing only 10.5% of world emissions. All the big emitters are absent from this list. The European Union is an exception, but it did not have any dragging effects.

One of the main tasks of the COP 25 in Madrid was to finalise article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The article in question sets out the principles that would allow the Parties to cooperate in the implementation of the contributions determined at national level (NDC) for cutting emissions. In practice, it provides an accounting framework to be able to transfer emissions reductions from one country to another (the so-called ITMO, "mitigation results transferred internationally"). In simple terms, this is an update of the old cooperation mechanisms of the Kyoto protocol, to allow, among other things, to link together national or regional emissions trading instruments (such as the European ETS system) in order to create a common market and cross-border carbon, resulting in a global price for CO₂. Not only that: the article also proposes a central United Nations mechanism for trade in credits deriving from the reduction of emissions generated through specific projects. On this front, an alliance of 31 countries, including the major European economies, under the aegis of Costa Rica fought for strict rules that guaranteed the integrity of a future global carbon exchange system. They had to clash with the irremovability of nations such as Brazil and Australia, both determined to include loopholes in the mechanism, such as double counting of credits or the reuse of the shares accumulated with the old CDM. And in the meantime, all references to human rights have been removed from the text of Article 6. Currently, carbon markets are likely to create huge loopholes to achieve climate goals on paper without actually reducing emissions: this is a cheat.

Some countries want to use the past to cheat on the future, when what we need is real action to adapt to the scale of the climate emergency. It has been calculated that, if such tricks were inserted, there would be credits covered by article 6 - between old and new - for almost 4.65 billion tons of CO₂ covered by article 6: their use would lead to a further heating of the 0.1% rather than a reduction in emissions. The process initiated by the Paris Agreement is centered on NDCs, ie the emissions reduction contributions that each nation will have to present to the 2020 COP26. To date, most of these plans are completely out of target with respect to the objectives of containing heating global (see also G20 under accusation in the climate report: no country is committing itself). **At the insistence of the United States, Brazil and China, the final document of the summit was greatly weakened, underlining how, by 2020, countries will have to "communicate or update" their climate plans, taking into account the current "significant gap ", In order to" reflect their maximum possible ambition "**.

The negotiators had been instructed to review the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), established in 2013 to address the consequences of climate change in the most vulnerable and economically backward realities (also known by the label "loss and damage"). The rich countries, primarily the USA, continue to be reluctant to provide long-term financing to the most vulnerable nations which, on the other hand, have proved more adamant than ever: the request was 50 billion dollars a year until 2022 , to be added to the famous 100 billion fund. Instead of offering "new and additional" money, however, the final text of COP25 "simply pushes" developed countries to "cut back" on funding.

The final COP25 document was limited to "reiterate the invitation to parties to communicate their plans". However, the urgent need to address the significant gap between the current ambition and the objectives of limiting heating to 1.5 ° C or well below 2 ° C is recalled. In paragraph 7, the text urges the parties to consider that gap when communicating or updating their NDC, even if not within a set time. He also asked the UNFCCC secretariat to prepare a report adding up the NDCs before COP 26.

All the carbon market problems referred to in Article 6 of Paris, as well as the reporting, transparency and common time requirements for climate commitments have all been postponed to 2020, when countries should also raise the ambition of their efforts.

One of the few, if not the only success stories at this year's COP was a decision on the new five-year action plan for gender (GAP), intended to support the implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates. UNFCCC.

The Conference failed to adopt rules for CO₂ emission reductions. The negotiating text would have made it possible to implement incisive rules, aimed at guaranteeing the principles and objectives of the Paris Agreement. However, the text was rejected by a small group of emerging countries. At COP25, countries have agreed to strengthen the Warsaw mechanism which allows to compensate for the damage and losses suffered by countries following climate change (e.g. floods, crop losses). The mechanism aims to improve the exchange of knowledge and experience between countries, in order to prevent these events.

The examination of the reports forwarded by the countries are important elements of the Paris agreement. In Madrid, however, the countries failed to agree on how to report on their emissions reductions and on the support obtained or given to other countries.

2. Summary of the European Parliament Resolution on the United Nations conference on climate change in December 2019

The European Parliament has passed a resolution whose full text can be read in https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-9-2019-0174_IT.html .

It declares concern about the climatic and environmental emergency in Europe and worldwide. The Commission is asked to ensure that all relevant legislative and budgetary proposals are fully in line with the objective of **limit global warming below 1.5 ° C. urges the EU to present to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change a strategy to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest.** MEPs also ask the new President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen to include a **target of 55% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.** EU countries should at least double their contributions to the International Green Climate Fund. Member States are the largest providers of public climate finance and the EU budget should fully respect international commitments. Furthermore, it is underlined that the commitments of developed countries do not reach the collective target of 100 billion dollars per year starting from 2020. Finally, all EU countries are urgently asked to **gradually eliminate all direct and indirect subsidies for fossil fuels by 2020.** The resolution states: "... **The commitments undertaken so far by the signatories of the Paris Agreement will not be sufficient to achieve the common objective;** and the current nationally determined contribution (NDC) presented by the EU and by its Member States is not in line with the objectives set by the Paris Agreement and needs to be revised; the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report on global warming of 1.5 ° C shows that the consequences of temperatures will probably be less severe with a 1.5 ° C increase than those generated by a 2 ° C increase;

Considering that the last four years - from 2015 to 2018 - have been the hottest four years recorded so far globally and that 2018 has recorded a record level of global carbon emissions; that the month of July 2019 was the hottest month ever and that 2019 continues the trend in progress, which is why the period 2015-2019 is destined to become the hottest five-year period ever recorded, according to WMO (World Meteorological Organization); According to WMO, the global CO₂ concentration in 2018 was 407.8 parts per million (ppm), 2.2 ppm more than in 2017, and that CO₂ concentrations are expected to reach or even exceed 410 ppm by the end of 2019;

Climate strikes were organised in 185 countries around the world as part of a global movement and in September 2019 7.6 million people took to the streets, a record figure that represents the largest mobilisation in history in favour of the climate; recalling that the preamble to the Paris Agreement recognises "the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including the oceans" and that UNFCCC Article 4 (1) (d) stresses that the Parties promote " sustainable management, conservation and growth of wells and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases, including biomass, forests and oceans, as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems";

- **whereas forests contribute substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation; whereas around 10% of GHG emissions in the EU are absorbed by growing forests; whereas deforestation is responsible for almost 20% of global GHG emissions and is caused in particular by the expansion of industrial scale farms and industrial production of soybean and palm oil, including those destined for the EU market; whereas the EU should reduce its indirect contributions to deforestation ("incorporated deforestation"), for which it is responsible; (...)**
- **Remember that climate change represents one of the most important challenges for humanity and that all countries and actors worldwide must do their best to combat it;** stresses that timely

- international cooperation, solidarity and a consistent and resolute commitment to joint action are the only way to honour our collective responsibility in preserving the whole planet;
- recognises that the serious risks of climate change are at the heart of people's concerns; recalls that, according to the 2019 Eurobarometer survey, **93% of European citizens consider climate change to be a serious problem; welcomes the fact that citizens all over the world, especially the younger generations, are increasingly active in the fight for climate action; welcomes their requests for greater collective ambition and swift action to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and not to exceed the limit of 1.5 ° C**; urges national, regional and local governments as well as the Union to listen to these requests;
 - acknowledges that public support is essential for the success of ambitious and inclusive EU climate policies and measures; believes that this should be reflected in the EU's efforts to tackle climate change;
 - recognises that the burden of climate change is already, and will continue to be, overwhelmingly borne by the countries of the South of the world, that the countries of the South of the world are more vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change than the North of the world, are already experiencing losses and damages and also have less adaptability, and that the countries of the South of the world have contributed significantly less to the climate crisis than in the North of the world;
 - recalls that the preamble to the Paris Agreement recognises the "right to health" as a fundamental right; stresses that Article 4 (1) (f) of the UNFCCC states that "all Parties must apply appropriate methods, for example impact assessment, formulated and defined at national level, in order to minimise the effects the negative effects that projects or measures they have taken to mitigate or adapt to climate change can have on the economy, public health and the quality of the environment"; believes that health should be included in national adaptation plans and national communications to the UNFCCC;
 - **deplores the fact that indicators of sustainable development goals (SDGs) for climate change do not include health**; notes, however, that some academic research initiatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UNFCCC secretariat are remedying this situation; welcomes the adoption of the United Nations High Level Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage of 23 September 2019;
 - **acknowledges that it will be almost impossible to achieve most of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda) unless the climate and environment ambitions agreed at COP21 are met**;
 - highlights that the direct effects of climate change are already being felt; stresses that, according to the report of the Global Commission on Adaptation, **climate change could reduce poverty in over 100 million people by 2030 and that crops could decrease by 5-30% by 2050, adversely affecting food security particularly vulnerable areas**;
 - underlines that, according to forecasts, an undiminished warming will reshape the global economy by **reducing average world incomes by 23% by 2100 and widening the income disparity worldwide**; underlines that, unlike previous estimates, the expected global losses are roughly linear compared to the world average temperature, with average losses much higher than those indicated by the main models;

Scientific basis for climate action

- stresses that the IPCC special report on 1.5 ° C global warming is the most comprehensive and up-to-date scientific assessment of mitigation pathways in line with the Paris agreement; highlights that

according to the report, in order to have a good chance of keeping the global temperature below 1.5 °C by 2100 without any overshoot or with a limited overshoot, the zeroing of the net GHG emissions at global level must be reached by 2067 at the latest and world GHG emissions must be reduced to a maximum of 27.4 gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent (GtCO₂eq) per year by 2030; underlines, in the light of these findings and in line with the Paris Agreement, that the Union, as a world leader, and other major global economies must strive to achieve zeroization as soon as possible, and at the latest by 2050, net GHG emissions;

- stresses that the IPCC special report on climate change and soil highlights the particularly dramatic consequences of global warming on land;
- **expresses concern that the anthropogenic degradation of soils, mainly due to unsustainable agricultural practices, and growing disturbances related to land use, such as forest fires, are further decreasing the soil's ability to act as a well carbon absorption; stresses that these dramatic consequences should worsen if the current global trend is confirmed ...**
- stresses that, according to the WHO, climate change affects the social and environmental determinants of health - clean air, drinking water, sufficient food and housing security - **and that an additional 250,000 deaths are expected every year between 2030 and 2050 for malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress, with extremely high atmospheric temperatures that directly contribute to deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, especially among the elderly and vulnerable individuals;**
- stresses that due to floods, heat waves, droughts and fires, climate change has significant repercussions on human health, including poor nutrition, mental health, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and vector-borne infections; highlights that the deterioration of hygiene conditions and the limited access to drinking water and health services endanger the health conditions of women, especially during pregnancy ...

An ambitious EU climate policy: the contributions set at national level and the long-term strategy of the EU

- invites all Parties to the UNFCCC, in cooperation with the regions and non-state actors, to contribute constructively to the process to be implemented in view of 2020, when the contributions established at national level must be updated in order to guarantee their compatibility with the long-term target for temperatures under the Paris Agreement; recognises that current commitments are not sufficient to achieve the objectives of the agreement; therefore stresses that global GHG emissions should reach their peak as soon as possible and that all parties, especially the EU and all G20 countries, should intensify their efforts and update their nationally established contributions within the first few months 2020, as required by the Paris agreement;
- **welcomes the launch of the Alliance for Climate Ambition at the 2019 United Nations Summit on Climate Action, in which 59 UNFCCC Parties have expressed their intention of presenting, by 2020, a reinforcement of the contributions established at national level, as foreseen by the Paris agreement, and 65 parties, including the Union, are working to achieve the elimination of net GHG emissions by 2050; regrets, however, that not all Member States were ready to support an increase in the level of ambition of the contributions set at national level of the Union, despite the requests of the European Parliament;**
- underlines the importance of the EU having an ambitious and inclusive climate policy which allows it to act as a credible and reliable partner on a global scale and to maintain the EU's leadership in

the global climate; stresses, therefore, the need for the EU to invest and make significant progress in research and innovations applicable to industry ...

- **Expects the European Green Deal to define a global and ambitious strategy to achieve a climate-neutral Europe by 2050 at the latest, including the goal of reducing national GHG emissions by 55% by 2030.** Invites the Commission to consequently adapt all its relevant policies, in particular on climate, agriculture and cohesion ...

Climate finance and other implementation measures

- welcomes the fact that COP24 has decided to continue to use the Adaptation Fund under the Paris Agreement; recognises the importance of the Fund for communities most vulnerable to climate change and therefore welcomes the new voluntary contribution of USD 10 million granted by the Member States to the Fund for 2019;
- **recognises that 37% of the EU budget is currently earmarked for the financing of the common agricultural policy (CAP), which could mobilise substantial funds to encourage and reward climate and environmentally friendly practices in the agricultural sector;**
- reiterates that the CAP should no longer provide subsidies for activities that are harmful to the environment and the climate, including peat drainage and excessive extraction of water for irrigation, nor should it penalise the presence of trees in the agricultural areas;
- **recognises that the EU and its Member States are the main providers of public climate finance;** welcomes COP24's decision to adopt a new, more ambitious target starting in 2025, **beyond the current commitment to mobilise USD 100 billion per year starting in 2020, but expresses concern that the commitments concrete developed countries are still far from reaching the collective target of USD 100 billion per year;** expects emerging economies to contribute, starting from 2025, to increasing international climate finance in the future;
- recognises that climate change is not a local challenge and that climate impacts outside the EU also have implications within it, as events such as hurricanes, droughts, floods and forest fires can have an impact on food and water security EU and supply chains of goods and services; calls on the Commission and Member States to prioritise increasing international climate finance for adaptation to bring it to the same level as mitigation funding, and to provide climate finance for loss and damage...
- **stresses that the EU budget should be consistent with its international commitments on sustainable development and with medium and long-term climate and energy objectives and should not be counterproductive to or impede their implementation;** therefore calls on the Commission to ensure verification of EU investment in the climate and biodiversity and to present, where appropriate, harmonised and binding rules...

Role of non-state actors

- **applauds the youth movement against climate change; stresses the importance of engaging in meaningful dialogue with young people and promoting their participation in policy making at all levels;** welcomes the growing global mobilisation of an ever wider range of non-state actors committed to climate action with concrete and measurable objectives; underlines the crucial role of civil society, the private sector and governments at subnational level in influencing and guiding public opinion and state action, as well as in sharing knowledge and best practices on the development and implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures; calls on the EU, Member States and all parties to promote, support and engage in dialogue with non-state actors, who are increasingly on

the front lines in the fight against climate change; also believes that citizens should be involved and sensitised;

- **reaffirms the crucial role of cities in achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, since according to the UN Synthesis Report on SDG 11 entitled "Monitoring progress towards inclusive, safe, resilient cities and human settlements and sustainable ", they are the source of over 70% of all greenhouse gas emissions, waste and atmospheric pollution;** welcomes the commitment made by 102 cities at the UN climate action summit to achieve climate neutrality by 2050; calls on the parties to involve cities more and more in emission reduction plans;

Openness, inclusiveness and transparency

- stresses that in order to achieve the limitation of the increase in the global average temperature to 1.5 ° C, an effective participation of all the Parties is necessary, which requires, in return, to address the question of vested interests or conflicts of interest; in this context, reiterates its support for a specific conflict of interest policy within the framework of the UNFCCC; calls on the Commission and the Member States to take the lead of this process without compromising the aims and objectives of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement;
- **stresses that 80% of people displaced by climate change are women and children who, in general, are affected by the effects of climate change to a greater extent than men and bear a greater burden, although they are not involved in it way in key decision-making processes on climate action; stresses, therefore, that the emancipation of all marginalised genders, as well as their full and equal participation and leadership in international fora, such as the UNFCCC, and their involvement in climate actions at national, regional and local level, are essential for the success and effectiveness of such actions;** believes that the EU and Member States should fully support the implementation of the UNFCCC Gender Equality Action Plan (GAP), notably through the integration of the gender perspective into EU climate and development policies and should to promote the participation of indigenous women and women's rights defenders in the UNFCCC process;
- notes that the consequences of climate change, particularly for survival, nutrition, access to education, have particularly serious repercussions on the health, protection and development of children and adolescents; believes that action is needed to limit these negative effects;

Global efforts from all sectors

- **advises the Commission to examine links and other forms of cooperation with carbon market players from third countries and regions, as well as to encourage the creation of further carbon markets and other carbon pricing mechanisms that will allow further increases efficiency and savings and will reduce the risk of carbon leakage, creating a level playing field at global level;** calls on the Commission to put in place protective measures to ensure that the EU ETS link continues to contribute in a permanent and complementary way to mitigation and does not undermine the Union's commitments on internal greenhouse gas emissions;
- recalls that all sectors must contribute to the creation of a climate neutral economy and that the decarbonisation of the EU economy should not result in the transfer of carbon emissions to third countries through the relocation of CO₂ emissions, but should become a success for the European economy and industry thanks to adequate investments, suitable tools and opportunities to develop the necessary innovations and pioneering technologies; is convinced of the effectiveness of market-based approaches; believes that carbon adjustment measures at borders must be based on a feasibility study and comply with WTO rules;

- **took note of the announcement by the President-elect of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen regarding the extension of the ETS to sectors not yet included in the EU emissions trading scheme; rejects direct inclusion in the EU ETS scheme;**
- **stresses that the transport sector is the only one to have experienced an increase in emissions since 1990;** stresses that this is not compatible with a long-term climate neutrality target, which requires greater and faster reductions in emissions from all sectors of society, including the aviation and maritime sectors; recalls that a full decarbonisation of this sector will be required by 2050 at the latest; notes that, from the Commission's analysis, it appears that the current global objectives and measures foreseen by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), even if fully implemented, would not allow to achieve the necessary reductions in emissions, and that further significant measures are needed, consistent with the objective of eliminating net greenhouse gas emissions from all sectors of the economy; believes that, in order to ensure that the contributions determined at national level are consistent with the economic commitments required by the Paris Agreement, the Parties should be urged to include emissions from international maritime and air transport, as well as to agree and implement measures internationally, regionally and nationally to reduce emissions from these sectors ...
- **recalls that an increase in CO2 emissions from maritime transport is expected from 50% to 250% between now and 2050;** welcomes the agreement on the IMO's initial strategy to reduce ship's greenhouse gas emissions as the industry's first step towards contributing to the achievement of the temperature target set in the Paris Agreement; urges IMO to make rapid progress in taking short and medium-term measures to help achieve the objectives of the strategy ...
- underlines the fact that there are already simple solutions to reduce emissions, such as the reduction of speed limits or the establishment of emission control zones foreseen under the international MARPOL convention; believes that the decarbonisation strategy and the European Green Deal should direct investments, ambitious research activities towards zero-emission boats and ecological boats with environmentally friendly components, better management of waste and water resources and the infrastructure improvements necessary to allow an increase in markets before 2030, such as electrification of ports; urges to increase funding for research and diffusion of alternative fuels on the market;
- **recalls that 23% of global greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture;** stresses that, in order to ensure sufficient nutrition for a growing world population, investment in intelligent agricultural techniques and production methods, such as the capture of methane from manure, more efficient use of fertilisers, the use of biomass in cycles and greater efficiency in meat and milk production methods;
- **recalls that although agriculture is responsible for around 10% of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU, it can help the Union to reduce its emissions through good soil management, agro-forestry, protection biodiversity and other land management techniques;** recognises that agriculture can achieve annual emissions savings of around 3.9 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent by 2050, which represents around 8% of current global greenhouse gas emissions;
- **notes that around 60% of methane worldwide is emitted from sources such as agriculture, landfills and waste water, as well as from the production and transportation of fossil fuels via pipelines;** recalls that methane is a powerful GES with a heating potential and is 28 times higher than that of CO2 over a hundred years; reminds the Commission of its legal obligation to examine as soon as possible policy options aimed at rapidly reducing methane emissions, as part of a Union strategic

plan for methane; calls on the Commission to present the appropriate legislative proposals to Parliament and the Council during this first half of its mandate;

- recognises the positive and significant role that the agricultural sector can play in combating climate change and stresses the importance of reforming the CAP in order to support farmers to develop and implement intelligent climate-friendly agricultural practices, such as the seizure of carbon and carbon recycling ...
- deeply regrets that subsidies for fossil fuels continue to grow and amount to around € 55 billion per year in the EU; urgently calls on all Member States to integrate, into their final draft national energy plans, concrete policies and measures aimed at phasing out all direct and indirect subsidies to fossil fuels by 2020, in order to respect global commitments the EU and free up resources that could be used to build a climate neutral society; calls on all other parties to take similar measures;
- welcomes the entry into force of the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol; believes that it should give the EU fresh impetus for a rapid revision of the F-gas regulation to address known shortcomings that threaten the EU's climate ambitions, such as the illegal trade in hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) and insufficient action against the use of sulphur hexafluoride (SF6)...

Energy policy

- underlines the central role of energy in the transition towards an economy with zero net greenhouse gas emissions;
- stresses that, during the transition to sustainable energy, the problem of energy poverty must be tackled by strengthening the rights of energy consumers, communicating more accurate information to consumers, improving energy efficiency measures in buildings, in particular for low-income families, as well as through social policies;
- underlines the importance of energy efficiency and renewable energies for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, energy security and the mitigation of energy poverty;
- **stresses the need for all sectors to work together effectively to decarbonise the EU economy and to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions;** stresses that countries should be flexible about how to decarbonise their economies so that it is easier to mitigate the social costs associated with the transition and gain social acceptance and support;
- believes that further integration of the EU's internal energy market will play an essential role, in particular in achieving an economy with zero net greenhouse gas emissions;
- recalls that the priority given to energy efficiency, notably through the implementation of the principle of "prioritising energy efficiency", and global leadership in renewable energies, are two of the main objectives of the EU Energy Union; **underlines that the EU renewable energy target for 2030 has been set at 32% or higher and that its energy efficiency target is 32.5% or higher;** stresses that these targets, while leading to a greater reduction of greenhouse gas emissions than previously envisaged, are not in line with the 50-55% reduction proposed by the newly elected President of the Commission or with the aim of limiting the global warming to 1.5 °C; calls on the Commission and the Council to define the further efforts needed to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency in line with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; calls for the global promotion of energy efficiency measures and the timely dissemination of renewable energies;
- welcomes the increase in the share of renewable energies in world energy supplies, particularly in the energy sector; **is concerned about the slow spread of renewable energies for heating, cooling and transport, particularly in the air and maritime transport sectors;** is deeply concerned about the slowdown (since 2014) in the expansion of the global renewable energy market share in the EU,

which is compromising the EU's energy and climate targets; stresses that, to achieve long-term sustainability goals, all sectors need to increase their use of renewable energy;

Research, innovation, digital technologies and space policy

- **recognises the crucial role of science and scientific innovations for the success of the fight against climate change and for achieving the strategic objectives of the Paris Agreement and any other ambitious climate program;** stresses the need for EU leadership both in the fight against climate change and in promoting technological progress towards resilient development to climate change;
- reiterates the importance of continuing and strengthening research and innovation in the field of climate change mitigation, adaptation policies, resource efficiency, low carbon and zero emissions technologies, sustainable use of raw materials secondary ("circular economy") and collection of data on climate change in order to combat this phenomenon; stresses the need to prioritise the financing of projects in the field of sustainable energy under the new Horizon Europe program, given the commitments made by the European Union in the context of the Energy Union and the Paris Agreement;
- **recalls that research, innovation and competitiveness represent one of the five pillars of the EU strategy for the Energy Union;** recalls therefore the key role played by researchers in combating global warming and stresses the importance of close scientific collaboration between international partners in this regard;
- recalls the fundamental role of digital technologies in supporting the energy and industrial transition, in particular in improving energy efficiency and saving and in reducing emissions; stresses the climatic benefits that digitisation of European industries can bring through more effective use of resources, including recycling and reducing the intensity of materials; highlights the benefits for the climate deriving from the full digitalisation of the transmission and distribution networks and the hubs for the exchange of energy, as well as the demand management programs administered through software applications;
- recognises the role of the new EU space program in supporting the EU fight against climate change and its effects; recalls the fundamental role that Copernicus data and information services, the European Earth observation system, have played in monitoring the earth; stresses the importance of Copernicus in facilitating the international coordination of observation systems and related data exchanges;

Climate change and development

- recalls that, according to the report on climate change and poverty prepared by the United Nations special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights on 25 June 2019, **climate change threatens to undo the last 50 years of progress in development, global health and poverty reduction and developing countries are estimated to bear 75-80% of the costs of climate change;**
- underlines that developing countries are the most vulnerable and most exposed to climate change and are least equipped to resist their increasingly devastating effects, including food and water crises, physical destruction due to natural disasters, displacements and growing tensions compared to scarce resources; recalls that climate change has dramatic consequences for the long-term economic development of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries;

- draws attention to the example of the tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth, the latter the most violent cyclone that has ever hit the African continent, which caused devastation in the Comoros, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in the first half of 2019, killing many people and leaving over two million in immediate need of humanitarian aid, the cost of which was almost 400 million dollars, largely supported by the EU, with an estimated cost for reconstruction of 3 billion dollars;
- stresses that the resilience of infrastructure in developing countries will prove crucial for their ability to adapt to climate change; **therefore insists on the need to encourage investment in resilient infrastructure in developing countries to help them resist the growing gravity of natural disasters;**
- recalls its position that at least 45% of the funding under the Neighbourhood and Development Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) proposed for the 2021-2027 period should support climate and environment objectives;
- insists on an integrated approach to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in both internal and external policies and in full respect of the principle of policy coherence for development, in particular in terms of development, trade, agriculture, energy and climate;
- **emphasises the interdependence of the climate, economy and society; highlights, in particular, the direct effects that climate change has on indigenous communities and the profound threat to the very existence of many of them, including isolated communities;** stresses that, according to the IPCC, autochthonous and traditional knowledge is an important resource for preventing climate change, not least because about 80% of the world's biodiversity is present in the territories of indigenous peoples; Expresses concern at the recent assassination of indigenous leader Emrya Wajãpi in northern Brazil and **welcomes the statement made on 29 July 2019 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights urging the government of Brazil to stop the invasion indigenous territories and to ensure the peaceful exercise of their collective rights in their territories, in line with ILO Convention 169;**
- **calls on developed countries, including EU Member States, to step up their support for knowledge sharing, capacity building and technology transfer to developing countries** and thereby honour Articles 9-11 the Paris Agreement and Articles 49, 116 and 120 of the Addis Ababa action program on financing development, while respecting their commitments in relation to SDG 17, including objectives 17.6 - 17.8; underlines, to this end, the positive potential to increase EU investment in promising scientific research projects; furthermore, calls for the EU to encourage the adoption of a declaration similar to the 2001 Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and public health, in order to promote the lawful transfer of climate-friendly technologies to developing countries;
- underlines the crucial importance of private investment and growth for the transition to climate-friendly infrastructure and production methods; stresses the need to maximise the contribution of these investments to climate action and the pursuit of the SDGs, including through incentives and the promotion of public-private partnerships; believes that the external investment plan is an essential tool in this regard; stresses, furthermore, the need for inclusive and sustainable development and growth to enable developing countries to participate in the climate transition, including through innovation and technological progress strategies; is convinced that the EU must swiftly promote responsible and sustainable private finance, in particular as regards human rights obligations and contributions to the national economies of developing countries; urges, however, not to rely too much on voluntary efforts from the private sector;
- takes note of the growing interest in developing climate-friendly and sustainable investment rules and reiterates its concern that the proliferation of private sector initiatives makes comparison and

verification difficult; welcomes in this regard the initiatives taken by the Commission and the international community to support investment and political dialogue on climate action in developing countries, such as the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA +) and the GCF; encourages, in this regard, the Commission and the Member States to further engage in international fora, in order to promote efficiency and equity in climate action investments ...

3. Italian cooperation and environmental policies

Among the priority guidelines adopted by Italian cooperation is that for the environment. It states that: **"The Italian Cooperation recognises the centrality of Sustainable Development as a fundamental principle and objective for its intervention policy aimed at eliminating poverty, and undertakes to apply appropriate procedures to pursue this objective.** The Environment , one of the three pillars of Sustainable Development, is particularly important for poor populations, the most vulnerable to the deterioration of natural resources, pollution and environmental disasters. All the initiatives of the Italian Cooperation are the result of a decision-making process consistent with the Principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development The Italian Cooperation, respecting the transversal nature of the environmental theme, promotes the integration of the environment in all its sectoral initiatives, as the main means for pursuing the objective of Sustainable Development So the Italian Cooperation gets involved to:

Promote the integration of the environmental theme during the geographical programming phase and the definition of cooperation priorities taking into account, in its decisions, adequate analyses of the environmental situation and of the national policies and environmental policies of the partner countries.

The Italian Cooperation is committed to ensuring that the environmental dimension is integrated already in the planning phase of all its initiatives.

All project proposals, in all areas of intervention, are subjected to an Environmental Screening procedure in order to preliminarily assess the significance of their environmental impact and integrate the necessary adaptations (opportunities and environmental risks) in the formulation phase in order to avoid technical repercussions - financial linked to any ex-post mitigation.

All project proposals supporting sectoral plans or programs in developing countries are consistent with the principles of Strategic Environmental Assessment in order to ensure that partner countries' environmental issues are addressed in the early stages of the decision-making process.

The principle of integrating environmental issues into sectoral policies, the legal expression of environmental transversality, is shown as the main means of pursuing the objective of sustainable development, as indicated by the Rio Declaration and reaffirmed by all the main environmental agreements at international level and European Union, from the Johannesburg Declaration to the Millennium Declaration, from the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU to the European Consensus on Development.

Having first of all found an inaccuracy in the way in which the environmental theme is framed in the programmatic documents of the Italian Cooperation, it is considered appropriate that the integration guidelines express explicitly, even before formulating specific guidelines, the concept of the transversality of the environmental theme compared to all other policy areas. As already stated for the previous concepts, the issue of integration will also be dealt with only within the scope of the planning and design processes, here with particular reference to the subdivision of the Italian Cooperation into thematic areas, which are responsible for the technical design and evaluation functions. .

Therefore, the Guidelines will be addressed at two different levels: that of the thematic areas (for planning), and that of territorial planning.

From a procedural point of view, citing a passage from an Italian speech on environmental integration in Cooperation, **“the inadequate attention paid by the donor community to the definition of objective indicators of environmental mainstreaming in cooperation projects and standard procedures / methodologies , mean that today we are not in a position to objectively monitor neither the measure nor the success of the actions of this integration, even less the cost-effectiveness ratios of the resources committed to it”**. This certainly highlights a first limitation on the effective application of the integration principle. Furthermore, we believe that the integration of environmental issues into the decision-making processes within the institution requires, not only a declaration of intent (depicted in the Guidelines), but also a commitment and effort on an organisational and training level by the institution itself. Consistent with these premises, it will be essential to elaborate, together with the Guidelines, some hypotheses of follow-up that the Italian Cooperation will be able to give in order to favour the achievement of the commitments prescribed by them. These actions will be outlined here in summary and preliminary form, as a more in-depth study is necessary for them which will go hand in hand with the formulation of the final version of the same guidelines.

At the level of thematic areas, a twofold intervention can be envisaged:

- Spread the knowledge of the links between the environmental sphere and all the other Cooperation themes among the personnel in charge of the design in the various thematic areas. As already noted, these connections must be clearly expressed and evaluated to avoid that the individual objectives for sustainable development are treated as independent objectives and not as elements of a unitary development process. Such a disconnection is led today to slow down, if not counter, the progress achieved in pursuing the ultimate goal, which is precisely that of sustainable development.
- • Promote the integration of the environmental theme into the Guidelines of all the other thematic areas. At a territorial planning level, the guidelines could make "recommendations" to those responsible for programming so that they take into account, when defining the thematic priorities of intervention in the various countries, the national strategy documents (Country Strategy Papers) suitably supplemented by considerations environmental (e.g. Country Environmental Profiles).