

Additional Comments for the Consultation on the Roadmap for a Low-Carbon Economy by 2050 from the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Additional comments on question 10:

From the ETUC's perspective, the following action is necessary to avoid negative social and economic consequences for people and allow them to benefit from the potential of growth and employment the low-carbon transition may bring about: better estimation of the impact that climate policies have on employment and skills to allow the most appropriate measures to be taken; implementation of employment and social transition measures; active role of social dialogue at both national and European level in managing this transition.¹

Thus, the ETUC claims to develop transition programs to anticipate changes in employment patterns, together with stakeholders. In order to increase the employment effects related to the transition and to create quality jobs, training programmes are required to enable the development of new sustainable industries and services, in areas such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Moreover, the creation of new jobs in the renewable energy sector contains the more general risk that this newly created employment is less well-paid and less secure than in the established sectors. Therefore, the ETUC stresses the importance of closely monitoring the quality of the created jobs. Quality jobs should also be promoted through making an adherence to social and environmental standards a condition for benefitting from public financial support.² Furthermore, the ETUC calls for ensuring and promoting of social dialogue instruments at all levels (European, national, regional, sectoral, companies, ...) to implement the necessary measures for a just transition. Furthermore, negative socioeconomic consequences for workers should be ensured by providing alternative employment and income protection.³

For further information see

- In particular the ETUC Resolution [on a Sustainable New Deal for Europe and towards Cancun](#) (October 2010)
- ETUC Position on the financing and management of climate policies (June 2010)
- ETUC Resolution on The climate change, the new industrial policies and the ways out of the crisis (October 2009)

Additional comments on question 13:

In order to provide workers with adequate skills to benefit from the transition, a European framework should be developed by 2011 to guarantee an adjustment of education curricula and programs to future environmental and social changes. This framework should provide training for the complete chain of providers, installers as well as suppliers in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.⁴

As already pointed out in its 2007 resolution, for the ETUC, a systematic assessment of the impact of climate change and respective protection policies on employment and skills is necessary.⁵ Therefore, the ETUC calls to set in place the conditions for achieving an exact evaluation of the

¹ ETUC Resolution (October 2006)

² ETUC Resolution (December 2010): 12-13

³ Ibid.: 15

⁴ Ibid. 12-13

⁵ ETUC recommendations for the international conference on climate change. Adding a labour and social dimension to the international climate change regime (December 2007): 4-5

situation in terms of employment by Member State and by sector, under the coordination of the European Commission, with a view to climate imperatives. In this way, the European Commission will be in a position, together with the Member States and the social players, to define the needs and resources necessary for the implementation of the transition towards a low carbon economy for Europe. An example of a key qualification allowing an effective promoting of energy efficiency in buildings, is to provide specific training for construction workers to provide them with new professional opportunities, such as “energy advisor”.

In respect to take advantage of the transition towards a low-carbon economy to create quality jobs, the Europe 2020 flagship initiative is not enough. Quality jobs should be promoted through making an adherence to social and environmental standards a condition for benefitting from public financial support.⁶

Moreover, in order to provide alternative employment and income protection for workers affected by climate protection measures, an enlargement of the Globalization Adjustment Fund is necessary.⁷

For further information see:

- ETUC Resolution on the Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020 (December 2010)
- ETUC Resolution [on a Sustainable New Deal for Europe and towards Cancun](#) (October 2010)
- ETUC Position on the financing and management of climate policies (June 2010)
- ETUC Resolution on The climate change, the new industrial policies and the ways out of the crisis (October 2009)

Additional comments to question 14:

Moreover, especially for Europe’s energy intensive industries (such as steel, aluminum and paper, the energy price is an important production factor and must be considered, taking into account that today, several industrial sectors located outside of Europe benefit from energy prices which are lower than in Europe. In order to avoid a loss of competitiveness and further negative consequences for employment, competitive energy bills should be provided through

- regulation ensuring an appropriate return on investment reflecting costs and avoiding excessive profit taking,
- policies ensuring that the necessary investments in energy efficiency are implemented in industrial sectors to reduce energy needs and thereby reduce energy costs for industries
- policies and measures helping industries develop combined heat and power utilities, as well as have access to dedicated energy sources and decentralized electricity production units, especially since the liberalization process has not led to competitive prices.

Therefore, the ETUC endorses a European and regulated social energy market economy.

⁶ ETUC Position on the financing and management of climate policies (2010): 3

⁷ ETUC Position on the climate change and energy package (2008): 2, Spring Alliance Manifesto: 21

Building sector

Another important issue to exploit the potential of climate protection and avoid its negative impacts can be made through an increase of investments in energy saving measures such as building insulation.

Thus, the ETUC calls for a renovation program for the complete European housing stock, to achieve a rapid and significant reduction of energy consumption in heating and cooling while providing targeted support to housing for people in poverty and promoting compact cities.¹² These measures should be supported by services promoting energy efficient behavior among customers under the responsibility of municipalities. They should also be supported and accompanied by social dialogue, bargaining and collective agreements to develop quality jobs in the sectors involved. The ETUC also reaffirms its position already stated as a member of the Spring Alliance to "set an EU-wide minimum standard for all new housing to be energy passive or positive by 2015".⁸ Moreover, the energy efficiency of buildings directive, which sets minimum requirements for new buildings from 2020 onwards, needs to be extended to cover existing buildings too, as had been proposed by the European Parliament on its position on the draft directive.⁹

Transport

Costs for transport must not become prohibitive due to energy prices. Both individual and collective transportation systems need to be reconsidered taking into account this aspect. Furthermore, an increase of investment and provision of public transport is necessary to guarantee broad access and quality for consumers and to reduce energy bills of lower income households.

A new tax on heavy tonnage maritime shipments and kerosene used in civil aviation provide an opportunity for funding the aforementioned projects. These ambitious measures in the transport sector must be included in EU legislation through a directive on sustainable mobility.¹⁰

Coal sector

The coal sector is another area, which is specifically vulnerable to the impacts of climate protection. A study carried out by a group of research institutions by order of the ETUC estimated that job losses

in coal mining in Europe in the scenario linked to the European climate-energy package will add up to between 77,000 and 87,000 and that they partly reflect the impact of ongoing restructuring measures in the coal industry (77 000) and partly the effect of "decarbonisation" of electricity generation (10 000).¹¹ The introduction of CCS makes it possible to limit such job losses, especially in electricity production. Therefore, considerable increase in research funding is necessary, in order to set up CCS pilot projects at national and European level.¹²

The key question for jobs in electricity generation is that of the shrinking of employment in coal-fired power plants, which cannot be offset by the development of jobs in renewable energy, since the latter correspond to different occupations with different status: a wind farm operator does not practice the same activity as a thermal power station operator.¹³

⁸ Spring Alliance Manifesto: 8

⁹ ETUC Resolution (December 2010): 4-5

¹⁰ ETUC Resolution (December 2010): 5

¹¹ Syndex et al. (2010): Climate Change, the new industrial policies and ways out of the crisis: 10

¹² Ibid.: 17

¹³ Ibid.: 10

For further information see:

- ETUC Resolution on the Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020 (December 2010)
- ETUC Resolution [on a Sustainable New Deal for Europe and towards Cancun](#) (October 2010)
- ETUC Resolution on The climate change, the new industrial policies and the ways out of the crisis (October 2009)
- Sydnex et al. by order of the ETUC (2010): Climate disturbances, the new industrial policies and ways out of the crisis, <http://tradeunionpress.eu/Web/EN/Webclima/EtudeBCCPen.pdf>