

Effort sharing regulation: EU ambassadors approve provisional agreement

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The EU is delivering on its promises to cut emissions by at least 40% by 2030

Today, EU ambassadors gave their support to the provisional agreement reached between the Estonian presidency and the European Parliament in December 2017 on the effort sharing regulation. The draft regulation sets out binding emission reduction targets for member states in sectors falling outside the scope of the EU emissions trading system (ETS) for the period 2021-2030.

This agreement brings the EU closer to fulfilling its **Paris climate commitment** of an at least 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. The regulation aims to ensure that the non-ETS sectors emissions reduction target of **30%** by 2030 compared to 2005 levels is reached in the effort sharing sectors, including buildings, agriculture (non-CO₂ emissions), waste management and transport (excluding aviation and international shipping).

"The EU will retain its leading and decisive role in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. We are grateful for the important work done by the Estonian Presidency on the effort sharing regulation. There is a political consensus in Europe on the global warming and the measures that should be taken. Bulgaria is part of this consensus. As a Presidency we will work for our shared interest to achieve a maximum level of progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and thereby improve air quality. Protecting the environment and the health of European citizens is one of the priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency," said Neno Dimov, Bulgarian Minister of Environment and Water

The European Commission presented two proposals on the sectors not covered by the ETS – effort sharing and LULUCF – in July 2016 on the basis of the guidelines provided by the European Council in its **October 2014 conclusions**.

Given the links between the two proposals, ministerial discussions on non-ETS sectors took place in parallel. These files were on the agenda of three Environment Council meetings before a negotiating position was agreed: a policy debate on 17 October 2016, a state-of-play briefing on 19 December 2016 and a progress report in June 2017.

The Council reached its general approach on 13 October 2017 and started negotiations with the European Parliament shortly thereafter. The European Parliament adopted its position during its plenary session on 14 June. On 21 December 2017 the Estonian presidency secured a provisional deal with the European Parliament.

Now that the provisionally agreed text has been endorsed by the EU ambassadors, it will be forwarded to the Parliament. Subject to final approval by the Parliament and subsequent formal adoption by the Council, the **legislative act** will be published in the Official Journal of the EU and **enter into force** twenty days following its publication.

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New measures to boost key competences and digital skills, as well as the European dimension of education

The new proposals come only two months after European Heads of State and Government discussed education, training and culture at the Gothenburg Summit in November 2017. They are intended to reduce socio-economic inequalities, whilst sustaining competitiveness in order to build a more united, stronger and more democratic Europe.

Jyrki **Katainen**, Vice-President of the Commission for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness, said: *"Today's initiatives aim at empowering individuals so that they can make the most of their lives and so that we can build fair, resilient economies and societies. We need to ensure education delivers for all, across Europe, and so that everybody can adapt to and benefit from change. This is vital for Europe's sustainable growth and competitiveness and will be even more so in the future. We are ready to support and to work together with Member States to make this happen."*

Tibor **Navracsics**, EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, said: *"Europe's education and training systems need to give people from all backgrounds the right competences to progress and prosper professionally, but also enable them to be engaged citizens. We need to harness the potential of education to foster social cohesion and a sense of belonging. To do so, we have to build on our common values and make sure that education enables pupils to experience their European identity in all its diversity, learn more about Europe, about other European countries and about themselves."*

Mariya **Gabriel**, EU Commissioner for The Digital Economy and Society, added: *"The digital age is expanding into all areas of our lives, and it is not just those who work in IT that will need to be alert of the digital*

transformation. The digital skills gap is real. While already 90% of future jobs require some level of digital literacy, 44% of Europeans lack basic digital skills. The Digital Education Action Plan we propose today will help Europeans, educational institutions and education systems to better adapt to life and work in increasingly digital societies."

The new proposals will also feed into the first [European Education Summit](#) which Commissioner Navracsics will host in Brussels on 25 January with the theme of "Laying the foundations of the European Education Area: for an innovative, inclusive and values based education".

The three initiatives proposed by the Commission are:

1. A [Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning](#):

Building on the Recommendation on Key Competences adopted in 2006, this proposal brings forward important updates reflecting the rapid evolution of teaching and learning since then. It aims to improve the development of key competences of people of all ages throughout their lives and to provide guidance to Member States on how to achieve this objective. A particular focus is placed on promoting entrepreneurial drive and innovation-oriented mindsets in order to unlock personal potential, creativity and self-initiative. Moreover, the Commission is recommending steps to foster competences in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and motivate more young people to embark on a career in these fields. The proposals made today should also be seen as part of the answer to urgently improve European education systems to face the many challenges highlighted in the latest PISA survey. More generally, the measures will support Member States in better preparing learners for changing labour markets and for active citizenship in more diverse, mobile, digital and global societies.

2. A **Digital Education Action Plan** that outlines how the EU can help people, educational institutions and education systems better adapt to life and work in an age of rapid digital change by:

- making better use of digital technology for teaching and learning;
- developing the digital competences and skills needed for living and working in an age of digital transformation; and
- improving education through better data analysis and foresight.

Initiatives include supporting schools with high-speed broadband connections, scaling up a new self-assessment tool for schools on the use of technology for teaching and learning (SELFIE) and a public awareness campaign on online safety, media literacy and cyber hygiene.

3. A **Council Recommendation on common values, inclusive education and the**

European dimension of teaching: This initiative proposes ways in which education can help young people understand the importance of and adhere to common values set out in Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union. It aims at strengthening social cohesion and contributing to fight the rise of populism, xenophobia, divisive nationalism and the spreading of fake news. The proposal also strengthens inclusive education to promote quality education for all pupils as well as the European dimension of teaching, so children also learn about Europe's common heritage and diversity and get a good understanding of the functioning of the EU. To support these aims, the Commission will take steps to increase virtual exchanges among schools, notably through the successful [e-Twinning](#) network, and boost school mobility through the [Erasmus+](#) programme.

Background

Heads of State and Government informally discussed education and training at the Gothenburg Social Summit in November 2017, guided by the Commission's Communication '[Strengthening European Identity through Education and Culture](#)'. This resulted in the [European Council conclusions](#) of 14 December 2017 calling on Member States, the Council and the Commission to take forward the agenda discussed in Gothenburg. The review of the 2006 Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning was announced in the [New Skills Agenda for Europe](#) adopted in June 2016. To prepare its proposal, the Commission held a [public consultation](#) and a [stakeholder conference](#) in 2017.

The proposed Council Recommendation on promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching builds on the [Paris Declaration on promoting citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education](#) adopted at the informal meeting of Education Ministers on 17 March 2015. It was announced in the Commission's [Communication on Supporting the prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism](#) of 14 June 2016. To guide its proposal, the Commission held a [public consultation](#) in 2017.

For more information

[Memo – Questions and answers](#)

[Factsheet on the European Education Area](#)

[Factsheet on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning](#)

[Factsheet on the Digital Education Action Plan](#)

[Factsheet on promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching](#)

[Council Recommendation on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning](#)

[Council Recommendation on promoting common values, inclusive education, and the European dimension of teaching](#)

[Digital Education Action Plan](#)

[Digital learning webpage](#)

[Gothenburg factsheets](#)

[Today's findings are damning indictment on Government's failure to tackle gender pay gap – Butler](#)

Dawn Butler MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities, commenting on reports by the ONS and the Young Women's Trust on the gender pay gap, said:

"Today's findings are a damning indictment on the Government's failure to tackle the gender pay gap. While the Government claims progress, this latest analysis exposes severe work inequalities faced by women across the country and it is clear that we need urgent action to address it.

"This year marks 100 years since some women were allowed to vote for the first time. Although much has been achieved since this historic moment, there is still a lot of progress to be made in terms of gender equality and achieving equal pay is one of them.

"Addressing the barriers that contribute to the gender pay gap is key to this. Labour will make it a priority to tackle discrimination in the workplace and provide free childcare. We will close the gender pay gap and introduce a civil enforcement system to ensure compliance with gender pay auditing. It is not right that women across the country face this unfair treatment."

[Scrap the cap and value our nurses](#)

Figures released today show 1 in 10 nurses are leaving the NHS every year. The number of nurses leaving the NHS now outnumbers those joining.

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Author:

welters complete another successful year

2017 concluded another successful year for the company. With full order books, they are ever confident that 2018 will provide more opportunities for new product developments and innovative contributions to the market. As the success of the company grows, this also provides an opportunity to bring new staff on board at both the production facility and also for onsite works, creating new jobs and expanding their skilled workforce to cover the increase in productivity and output.

For over thirty years, the company has striven to ensure that it has the ability to design, manufacture, supply and install their entire OPC and decorative stone components at its own manufacturing facility, negating the need to use third party concrete producers or installation contractors. This means that the design, production and delivery of all projects is maintained and administered from within the company, giving WOW a strong foundation for a reliable and lasting service provision to its clients.



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Please contact us admin@welters-worldwide.com for further information.

The post [welters complete another successful year](#) appeared first on [Latest News](#).