



Environment, Energy and Climate Change Working Group 3 Recommendations

Introduction

WG 3 regards the topics on the agenda of EaP Thematic Platform 3 and the Panel on Environment under Thematic Platform 2 as very relevant. However, CSF participants of WG 3 believe that the process could greatly profit from stronger involvement of the EaP CSF CSOs and from including missing or emphasizing some existing important aspects. WG 3 and some WG2 colleagues interested in sustainability issues have therefore produced 6 discussion papers with detailed proposals and their justifications. These papers are attached to this note and concern the following aspects:

1. Effective Civil Society involvement in EaP matters related to environment, climate change and energy

More effective involvement of CSOs requires a) access to information, including to draft documents; b) providing CSOs with “permanent participant” status; c) frequent opportunities to interact with governmental players of the EaP process on the national, regional and EU levels; d) involving them as experts in studies; e) setting up a regular dialogue with CSOs by EC Delegations in partner countries. More regular regional meetings of WG3 members on specific issues would also be important to exchange information and come up with common positions. (*Discussion Paper 2*)

2. Issues that need be given more attention by the Environment Panel and Thematic Platform 3 :

2.1. Strengthening Environmental Governance in partner countries

Integrating environmental requirements into development policies and developing National Institutional Capacity Building Plans for Ministries of Environment in partner countries on strategic transition towards a green economy would considerably strengthen environmental governance in Eastern partner countries. CSO should be involved in developing indicators for and monitoring the effectiveness of EaP initiatives related to achieving sustainable development in an institutionalised manner and to CSO support. (*Discussion paper 2*)

2.2. Support of ecologically sound renewable energy production

CSO are in support of promoting renewable energy production; however, we are missing the aspect of ensuring that renewable energy is also ecologically sound through integrated policy development and planning. CSOs could play an important role as communicators of this concept and in monitoring implementation. (*Discussion Paper 1*)

2.3. Making energy security strategies in Eastern partner countries transparent and sustainable

Energy security policies would become more ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable if they were developed in more transparent manner, with public consultation, and monitored systematically, with involvement of CSOs. This requires capacity building measures and better regional cooperation, in our opinion. (*Discussion paper 4*)

2.4. Making natural resource management climate resilience

Climate change is already a fact and will stay with us for some time to come, no matter how effective our mitigation measures. We therefore suggest to use the EaP platform for sharing knowledge among governmental and CSO players and providing support on building ecosystem resilience to climate change through integrated natural resource management. (*Discussion paper 6*)

2.5. Giving a price tag to nature's services

A Green Economy can only be achieved if governments consider costs of ecosystem degradation in their economic policies. The Panel on Environment should help Eastern partner countries to get involved in the EU process of developing and piloting approaches for mainstreaming the conservation of ecosystem services into governmental and economic policies, so that insights gained and first benefits can be shared within the whole partnership right from the start. CSOs, in particular think tanks and NGOs have knowledge to share. (*Discussion paper 3*).

2.6. Increasing resource efficiency through better waste management

Household waste is a tremendous problem in Eastern partner countries. Increasing resource efficiency by separate waste collection and recycling is good for the environment and provide new business opportunities. Knowledge on policy and financing solutions should be shared with Eastern partner countries. CSO involvement would ensure better buy-in to solutions by the public and businesses. (*Discussion paper 2*)

3. Other issues of high importance and to be dealt with in the near future

Climate change mitigation: The EU should advocate and support integrated climate policies in Eastern partner countries aimed at stabilizing and decreasing emissions from the current level, based on the recent national communication as well as the idea of CSO participation in climate summits.

Integration: Environmental integration within the Civil Society Forum can be achieved through targeted meetings of CSO representatives of different working groups, mutual invitations of speakers, development of joint statements across WG "borders" etc

Toxic waste: Toxic waste is a burning environmental problem for which Eastern partner countries need support and would profit from cooperation

The social dimension of EaP energy strategies and policies: It should be recognized that without motivating public for daily energy efficient consumption, sustainable energy targets couldn't be achieved. Technologies will not solve the problem by itself. At the same time, citizens should have access to affordable, cleaner, and safe energy as a component part of sustainable energy development with a clear focus on promoting clean energy technologies and increasing access to financing for energy. The knowledge and resources towards increasing such access should be mobilised.

Conclusions

EaP CSF WG3 members propose to discuss with Thematic Platform 3 and Environment Panel chairs how to introduce and discuss these proposals with all involved countries. We are aware that not all our recommendations can be taken into consideration in the short term, but hope to reach agreement with governmental players on a list of priorities and on an action plan. We would be delighted to participate in Platform and Panel meetings or to jointly organise focussed working meetings, e.g. in cooperation with EC Delegations, where we could explain in more details our ideas and proposals and discuss them with governmental players.