
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Regional
Commission
November 11, 2022

European Economic and Social Committee
Special Session

Proposal of Recommendations for ECOSOC Plan of Action for implementing the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy, and Sustainable Environment

Submitted by The Republic of Bulgaria
Presented in Kingston, Canada on November 11, 2022

The country of Bulgaria....

Further recalling past laws in Bulgaria, the lack of private property rights made a straightforward path for pollution to occur due to an absence of enforceable claims when resources are despoiled

Recognizing the research done by NGO's IQAir and Balkans United for Clean Air, statistics show that air pollution in the Balkans is the worst in Europe and lead to cross-border pollution amongst them and neighbouring countries

Recalling the research done by NGO's IQAir and Balkans United for Clean Air, statistics show that air pollution in the Balkans is worst in Europe and lead to cross-border pollution

Deeply concerned about the rising deaths in Balkan countries due to air pollution, in accordance to estimates made by the European Environment agency a total of 30,000 premature deaths can be atoned to excessive particulate matter (PM2.5), Ozone (O3), and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)

Acknowledging the tax laws created by lawmakers in Bulgaria who voted that the value-added tax (VAT) on food that is donated by companies to food banks and charities should be waived allows for the most economic choice in regards to food to be changed from wasting food to donating.

Bearing in mind that all EU countries have a high value-added tax between 27 percent to 19 percent according to the Tax Foundation with lowest levels either being a lack of VAT or a percentage between 5 to 10

Deeply concerned by the cross contamination of air pollution causes by factories sitting on the border, maps and statistics show that most of these factories are placed along the borders of states

Recognizing the gender inequality and gender violence experienced by women throughout Bulgaria, it is recommended based on the SDG 2030 that the policies on gender equality, human rights and leaving no one behind are promoted to increase human rights

Noting further that women in Bulgaria hold many of the leading European positions of women in IT, science and engineering yet there is a gender pay gap as well as gender violence experienced in all of these fields

~ Operative Clauses or Articles ~

1. Calls upon the establishment of outreach offices to provide guidance to member states on reforming domestic policies in order to increase effectiveness in confronting poverty-induced climate change;

a) Increase effectiveness in confronting poverty-induced climate change;

2. Recommends member states to sign an agreement to begin taking initiative in preventing cross-border pollution by;

a) establishing a burden sharing system, which would among the others;

I) allow for the polluter to pay an approach to responsibility

II) Take more environmental initiative to cease the unnecessary spreading of pollutants into the air near shared borders,

b) Create a global air-pollution agreement between member states with intentions of:

I) penalizing cross-border pollution between bordering countries and others affected,

II) Promoting ways of clean energy to replace current factories that are causing the cross-border pollution

3. Asks that the member states of the European Union lower the amount of value added tax placed on food donations made by companies located in their own countries, therefor;

a) Allowing for businesses to take the logical approach of donating their food waste to food banks and donation centres,

b) With a lack of value-added tax, a great majority of businesses will donate their food as expenses will be lesser to donate than to waste;

4. Encourages the European Union and Bulgaria to come to an agreement surrounding cross border air pollution that would;

a) Take initiative in moving the factories responsible for cross border contamination towards the middle of the state or larger cities;

b) Convert with the help of funding from ECOSOC and its members, the factories sitting along the borders to renewable energy sources that would;

I) Decrease the air pollution in Balkan states due to cross border pollution;

II) Decrease the amount of CO₂ pollutants being released into the atmosphere;

5. Encourages member states of the European Union and ECOSOC to sign agreements to focus on the equality and treatment of women with the intention of;

a) Closing the gender pay gap or decreasing it in order to further enhance the equality between all individuals;

- b) Eliminate gender violence experienced by women in all areas which will increase Human Rights and the principle of inclusion amongst vulnerable groups.*
- 6. Requests member states of the European Union to support the principle of burden sharing of the climate crisis to;*
 - a) Assist member states with economies in transition to meet 2030 emission reduction targets and the EU 2050 climate-neutrality target*
 - b)*
- 7. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.*