



MEP Scorecards: Background and methodology

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Introduction

CAN Europe analysed the voting behavior of each Member of the European Parliament (MEP) over the last five years on ten crucial votes on climate and energy policy issues. On the basis of this analysis, we created scorecards demonstrating the voting behavior of each MEP and their national political parties in favor (or against) the development of adequate climate and energy policies in the European Union. One scorecard per member state was created, with the exception of Croatia¹, and one extra one for the political groups of the European Parliament.

This document provides background information on the ten votes that we selected for this exercise. For obvious reasons we have limited this exercise to votes that took place in the plenary (and thus not in committees), and have included both votes on amendments as on full reports in this overview, depending on the subject of the vote. Furthermore these votes cover both legislative initiatives as well as own initiative reports, in order to ensure an overall balance of issues.

Methodology

1. Selecting the votes

The scorecards are based on the votes of all present and former MEPs that served anytime during the present European Parliament legislative term (2009-2014).

The ten votes were selected out of the many votes that took place between mid-2009 and early 2014. They were chosen from both legislative processes and the EP's own initiative resolutions, depending on how the different votes could best reflect the overall scope of the work that the European Parliament has done on climate and energy policy in its current term.

We have tried to find a balanced overview of ten votes on important issues that cover the broad spectrum of the different elements of the climate debate. This was not always easy as we needed to take into account plenary votes only, votes that were recorded and votes that were significant as certain resolutions were adopted as a whole containing both positions that we considered good as well as positions we could not support. As a result, there are a number of important climate-related topics that were voted upon but were not included in the ten votes analysed in our scorecards, including: road and other transport, agriculture, forests, waste, industrial gases, unconventional fuels, etc. These ten votes therefore do not assume to give the full picture of all climate policy issues covered by the European Parliament in its work.

¹ Given that Croatian MEPs were only present for three of the ten votes due to Croatia's very recent accession to the EU.

2. Scoring the votes

For each vote, MEPs were either given a point for voting positively (i.e. either voting ‘for’ or ‘against’, depending on if the text furthered or hindered the development of climate and energy policies) or no points for any of the other voting behaviours (i.e. “against”, ‘abstain’, ‘absent’, ‘didn’t vote’²). Given that the purpose of these scorecards is to reflect MEPs positions, vote corrections were included, even though they have no effect on the vote result.

Overall scores were assigned to each MEP by averaging out their points and converting them to percentages. The averaging does not take into account ‘documented absences’ or votes for people that were not MEPs at the time, and therefore it does not penalise MEPs in those instances.

The same method of scoring was done for the European Parliament’s political groups and all national political parties represented in the European Parliament, based on the points of their respective MEPs.

Finally, scores were grouped into four bands that we named for ease of use: *very good* (75-100%), *good* (50-74%), *bad* (25-49%) and *very bad* (0-24%).

The number of MEPs per party is indicated in the scorecards in order to give a sense of the representation they have in the parliament. It represents the maximum number of MEPs the parties had at any given moment in time during the 2009-2014 term (not the total number of individual MEPs that were in office during 2009-2014, which would distort the size of those parties who had many incoming and outgoing MEPs).

The general data on the votes were gathered from the European Parliament website. The data for the MEPs’ voting records was collected from the VoteWatch Europe website.³ The vote corrections were gathered from the European Parliament’s website.

Basic information on each vote

1. Achieving a global legally binding treaty through the international climate negotiations

For countries to adequately deal with the climate change challenge, they will need international agreements that ensure all governments contribute their fair share to ambitious climate action. The negotiations under the UNFCCC form the backbone of such agreements. There were huge expectations that through engaging political leaders the world could make a substantial step forward at the climate change summit in Copenhagen in December 2009. It turned out to be a small step.

² ‘Didn’t vote’ means the MEP was present that day but did not vote.

³ VoteWatch Europe is an independent organisation that promotes transparency on EU institutions’ decision-making, notably the European Parliament by making available an overview of MEP voting records (gathered from the Parliament’s own website).

The EU had an important role to play in Copenhagen, and the European Parliament resolution in preparation of Copenhagen highlighted a number of clear elements of that role, including the issue of the EU's contribution to the effort to reduce emissions (mitigation), the EU's contribution to financing climate action in poor countries and the need to expand the legal regime with binding commitments from all countries. We have included the vote on the full resolution in this overview.

Type	Motion for a resolution
Title	The EU strategy for the Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change (COP 15)
Date	25 November 2009
Procedure	Non-legislative
Vote	Text as a whole
Result	Adopted. 516 For; 92 Against; 70 Abstentions; 29 Didn't vote; 28 Absent; 1 Documented absence
Adopted resolution text	European Parliament webpage on the text
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoteWatch Europe webpage on the vote • European Parliament Roll-Call Votes document (includes vote corrections)

2. Integrating climate change into development policies

As climate change has already and will have in the future an enormous impact on poor people's lives it is essential that climate change considerations are fully integrated in all development policies. At the Rio+20 summit in June 2012, governments discussed the issue of setting sustainable development goals in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

We included the European Parliament vote on the full resolution on the Rio+20 summit, given it contains multiple references to the integration of climate change in the development agenda.

Type	Motion for a resolution
Title	Developing a common EU position ahead of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)
Date	29 September 2011
Procedure	Non-legislative
Vote	Text as a whole
Result	Adopted. 449 For; 103 Against; 45 Abstentions; 25 Didn't vote; 112 Absent; 1 Documented absence
Adopted resolution text	European Parliament webpage on the text
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoteWatch Europe webpage on vote • European Parliament Roll-Call Votes document (includes vote corrections)

3. Increasing the EU's 2020 emission reduction target to 30%

CAN Europe regrets the lack of ambition of the EU's greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2020. By refusing to move to a 30% climate target EU Member States are failing to effectively stimulate the low-carbon transition and to ensure the EU's fair contribution to keeping temperature rise well below 2°C. Given that by 2012 the EU's domestic emissions had already been reduced by 18%, which rises to 27% when including international offsets, the 20% target the EU has had on the table for more than 5 years is already achieved. Therefore, CAN Europe supports a domestic emission reduction target of 30% by 2020.

In the framework of the EP's discussion on the 2050 Low Carbon Roadmap, an amendment was tabled that called for increasing the EU's 2020 ambition. We included the vote on this amendment in the overview.

Type	Motion for a resolution
Title	Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050
Date	15 March 2012
Procedure	Non-legislative
Vote	On Amendment 1/2 proposing a new paragraph (Paragraph 1a). Please note the Parliament decided to split the vote on Amendment 1 in two , the first vote being on first part ('Calls ... Roadmap'), and the second vote on the second part ('and ... 2020'). The vote chosen here is the second one (part underlined).
Amendment text	"1a. Calls for the Commission to come forward, as soon as possible and before the end of 2012, with proposals to achieve a 25% internal greenhouse gas reduction by 2020 consistent with a cost effective pathway to the 2050 objective as outlined in the 2050 Roadmap, <u>and to move to a 30% overall target for 2020;</u> "
Original text	No text - amendment relates to a new paragraph European Parliament webpage on the text
Result	Rejected. 232 For; 383 Against; 15 Abstentions; 25 Didn't vote; 99 Absent
Adopted text	No text - as amendment was rejected
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoteWatch Europe webpage on the vote • European Parliament Roll-Call Votes document (includes vote corrections)

4. Saving energy through binding EU targets and measures

Reducing energy consumption is one of the most effective and lowest-cost measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and also supports other objectives such as increasing employment, reducing energy bills and promoting energy security. The EU therefore adopted in 2007 a non-binding target to reduce energy consumption by 20%. Given Member States were not on track to achieve this target, the European Commission developed the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), which contains binding measures that should help achieve the target.

After the European Parliament adopted a position on the EED in its ITRE Committee, a trilogue with the European Commission and the European Council began. It is the compromise text produced in trilogue

that was tabled at the EP Plenary. Given its nature as a compromise, it was supported by a large number of MEPs as a whole. Therefore, the vote on the full Directive is included in this overview.

Type	Draft legislative resolution
Title	Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy efficiency and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC
Date	11 September 2012
Procedure	Legislative
Vote	Text as a whole
Result	Adopted. 632 For; 25 Against; 19 Abstentions; 30 Didn't vote; 48 Absent
Adopted resolution text	European Parliament webpage on the text
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoteWatch Europe webpage on the vote • European Parliament Roll-Call Votes document (includes vote corrections)

5. A Mechanism for Monitoring and Reporting greenhouse gas emissions

The Mechanism for Monitoring and Reporting (MMR) of greenhouse gas emissions is perhaps the most important legislative initiative on climate change policy of the current European Commission. It lays down some of the fundamentals of how the EU will deal with its obligations under the climate and energy package as well as under the UNFCCC.

The European Parliament, in its resolution and in the subsequent trilogue, pushed the EU Member States to be more ambitious in their accounting, amongst other things on emissions from agriculture and deforestation and on the provision of climate finance. The selected vote relates to the text as a whole, which represents a major substantial step forward for the European Union's climate policy development.

Type	Draft legislative resolution
Title	Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and for reporting other information at national and Union level relevant to climate change
Date	12 March 2013
Procedure	Legislative
Vote	Text as a whole
Result	Adopted. 634 For; 42 Against; 5 Abstentions; 25 Didn't vote; 48 Absent; 1 Documented absence
Adopted resolution text	European Parliament webpage on the text
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoteWatch Europe webpage on the vote • European Parliament Roll-Call Vote document (includes vote corrections)

6. Increasing the share of renewable energy in energy consumption

Given that EU greenhouse gas emissions are still largely linked to energy use (up to 80%), increasing the share of renewable energy in our total energy use will be crucial to securing a transition to a zero carbon society. The adoption of binding renewable energy targets for 2020 has been fundamental in securing the beginning of this transformation in the EU. It is crucial that this policy is continued through the establishment of ambitious binding renewable energy targets for 2030.

In its resolution on renewable energy, the European Parliament discussed amendments, including one that specifically referred to agreeing a binding renewable energy target for 2030. We have included the vote on that specific amendment in this overview.

Type	Motion for a resolution
Title	Current challenges and opportunities for renewable energy in the European internal energy market
Date	21 May 2013
Procedure	Non-legislative
Vote	On Amendment 1/1 modifying Paragraph 1 . Please note the Parliament decided to split the vote on Amendment 1, the first vote being on the text as a whole excluding the words 'of between 40 and 45%', and the second vote on those words. The vote chosen here is the first one (underlined).
Amendment text	<u>"1. Agrees with the Commission that RES, together with energy efficiency measures and flexible and smart infrastructure, are the 'no regrets' options identified by the Commission and that RES in the future will account for a growing share of energy provision in Europe, for electricity supply, for heating (which makes up nearly half of the total energy demand in the EU) and cooling and for the transport sector, and that they will reduce Europe's dependence on conventional energy; adds that targets and milestones should be set for the period to 2050 in order to ensure that RES have a credible future in the EU; recalls that all scenarios presented by the Commission in its Energy Roadmap 2050 assume a share of at least 30 % RES in the EU's energy mix in 2030; suggests, therefore, that the EU should endeavour to achieve an even higher share, and calls on the Commission to propose a mandatory EU-wide RES target for 2030 (of between 40 % and 45 %), taking into account the mutually interacting effects with other potential climate and energy policy targets, in particular with a GHG emission reduction target, as well its impact on the competitiveness of EU industries, including the RES industrial sectors;"</u>
Original text	"1. Agrees with the Commission that RES, together with energy efficiency measures and flexible and smart infrastructure, are the 'no regrets' options identified by the Commission and that RES in the future will account for a growing share of energy provision in Europe, for electricity supply, for heating (which makes up nearly half of the total energy demand in the EU) and cooling and for the transport sector, and that they will reduce Europe's dependence on conventional energy; adds that targets and milestones should be set for the period to 2050 in order to ensure that RES have a credible future in the EU; recalls that all scenarios presented by the Commission in its Energy Roadmap 2050 assume a share of at least 30% RES in the EU's energy mix in 2030; suggests, therefore, that the EU should endeavour to achieve an even higher share; calls on the Commission to assess the costs and benefits of introducing a mandatory EU-wide RES target for 2030, the mutually interacting effects with other potential climate and energy policy targets, in particular with a GHG emission reduction target, as well its impact on the competitiveness of EU industries, including the RES industrial sectors;"
Result	Adopted. 339 For; 336 Against; 12 Abstentions; 36 Didn't vote; 29 Absent; 2 Documented absences
Adopted text	"1. Agrees with the Commission that RES, together with energy efficiency measures and flexible and smart infrastructure, are the 'no regrets' options identified by the Commission and that RES in the future will account for a growing share of energy provision in Europe, for electricity supply, for heating (which makes up nearly half of the total energy demand in the EU) and cooling and for the transport sector, and that they will reduce Europe's

	dependence on conventional energy; adds that targets and milestones should be set for the period to 2050 in order to ensure that RES have a credible future in the EU; recalls that all scenarios presented by the Commission in its Energy Roadmap 2050 assume a share of at least 30 % RES in the EU's energy mix in 2030; suggests, therefore, that the EU should endeavour to achieve an even higher share, and calls on the Commission to propose a mandatory EU-wide RES target for 2030, taking into account the mutually interacting effects with other potential climate and energy policy targets, in particular with a GHG emission reduction target, as well its impact on the competitiveness of EU industries, including the RES industrial sectors;”
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoteWatch Europe webpage on the vote • European Parliament Roll-Call Votes document (includes vote corrections)

7. Providing international climate finance to developing countries

Developed countries promised in Copenhagen to provide US\$100 billion per year by 2020 to support climate action in developing countries. They also promised this money to be new and additional. Until now very little progress has been made in getting clarity on how the EU will deliver its fair share of the new and additional US\$100 billion climate finance by 2020.

In the framework of its resolution on the Millennium Development Goals, the European Parliament voted on a specific paragraph proposed by the rapporteur, calling on the EU to develop innovative sources of finance that ensure climate finance is new and additional.

Type	Motion for a resolution
Title	The Millennium Development Goals – defining the post-2015 framework
Date	13 June 2013
Procedure	Non-legislative
Vote	Paragraph 65
Original text	“65. Insists that funding to fight and adapt to the effects of climate change be genuinely additional to existing commitments; calls on the EU, therefore, to propose that financing sources other than ODA be made available for climate finance, allowing post-2015 discussions to clarify the roles of ODA and adaptation finance in sustainable poverty eradication;”
Result	Adopted. 517 For; 72 Against; 10 Abstentions; 45 Didn't vote; 108 Absent; 2 Documented absences
Adopted text	“65. Insists that funding to fight and adapt to the effects of climate change be genuinely additional to existing commitments; calls on the EU, therefore, to propose that financing sources other than ODA be made available for climate finance, allowing post-2015 discussions to clarify the roles of ODA and adaptation finance in sustainable poverty eradication;”
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoteWatch Europe webpage on vote • European Parliament Roll-Call Votes document (includes vote corrections)

8. Moving the EU's post-2020 greenhouse gas emission reduction target beyond 40%

Given the pre-2020 emission gap, CAN Europe calls upon the EU to increase its long-term ambition level and adopt a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least -55% by 2030. Only such an ambitious

target will really ensure the EU can take a leadership role in the international negotiations on a new international climate agreement and keep its commitment to doing its fair share toward keeping us below 2°C global warming.

In European Parliament’s resolution on the 2013 UNFCCC conference in Warsaw, the rapporteur for this file proposed to substantially increase the 40% by 2030 goal as currently identified by the European Commission in their 2050 Low Carbon Roadmap to a 50% target. An amendment was tabled to delete this paragraph, meaning the Parliament would not call for more ambitious targets. We included the vote on this amendment in the overview.

Please note that the European Parliament is currently discussing an own initiative report on the post-2020 climate and energy policy framework. The vote on this is expected for February 2014 and therefore not integrated in this exercise.

Type	Motion for a resolution
Title	The climate change conference in Warsaw, Poland (COP 19)
Date	23 October 2013
Procedure	Non-legislative
Vote	On Amendment 6 deleting paragraph 8
Amendment text	calls for deletion of paragraph
Original Text	“8. Considers that for the EU to remain in the lead in terms of the development of technologies for a future climate-friendly economy, the EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction target should be at least 50 % by 2030;”
Result	Adopted. 384 For; 277 Against; 4 Abstentions; 42 Didn’t vote; 56 Absent; 1 Documented Absence
Adopted text	Paragraph 8 deleted
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoteWatch Europe webpage on the vote • European Parliament Roll-Call Vote document (includes vote corrections)

9. Backloading as a needed first step to make the EU’s carbon market effective

The EU’s Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), a pillar of the EU’s climate policy, is not working as initially envisaged. Due to the economic crisis, over-allocation of permits between 2008 and 2012, and a significant influx of international credits, a massive surplus of pollution permits has been accumulated, hampering the functioning of the ETS. In order to correct the imbalance between supply and demand of allowances the European Commission proposed the “backloading” measure, a temporary delay in auctioning 900 million allowances. In order to make backloading possible the EU ETS Directive had to be amended with the approval of the European Parliament.

The vote we selected is the final vote of the European Parliament on the proposed change of the EU ETS Directive to accept backloading of allowances. The vote in question refers to the adoption of the full text after voting on individual amendments.

Type	Draft legislative resolution
Title	Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/87/EC clarifying provisions on the timing of auctions of greenhouse gas allowances
Date	10 December 2013
Procedure	Legislative
Vote	Vote on legislative resolution
Result	Adopted. 385 For; 284 Against; 24 Abstentions; 34 Didn't vote; 36 Absent; 1 Documented Absence
Adopted resolution text	European Parliament webpage on the text
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoteWatch Europe webpage on the vote • European Parliament Roll-Call Votes document (includes vote corrections)

10. Ambitious 2030 binding targets

As part of the EU's contribution to the international negotiations on a new global climate deal, the European Commission developed a proposal on the post-2020 climate and energy policy framework. In this proposal the Commission included a proposal for nationally binding targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions and an EU-wide target for renewable energy development. In its own initiative report the European Parliament increased both the ambition of the proposed targets as well as called for binding targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions, renewable energy development and energy savings.

We selected the specific vote on qualifying that these three targets need to be binding.

Type	Motion for a resolution
Title	A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies
Date	5 February 2014
Procedure	Non-legislative
Vote	On Paragraph 4/2. Please note the Parliament decided to split the vote on Paragraph 4, with the first part being on the text as a whole excluding the words "ambitious binding targets", "asks ... these three targets" and "the most"; the second part on "ambitious binding targets"; the third part on "asks ... these three targets" without the word 'three'; the fourth part on the "three"; and the fifth part on "the most". The vote chosen here is the second one (part underlined).
Original text	"4. Calls on the Council and the Commission to adopt and implement, as part of the EU's 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, a multi-faceted approach based on mutually reinforcing, coordinated and coherent policies and <u>ambitious binding targets</u> for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency; asks the Commission and the Member States to take greater advantage of the interactions between these three targets, since they are the most appropriate tools for achieving the EU's climate and energy objectives in a cost-effective way in the time horizon to 2030, providing investment certainty, and

	boosting and strengthening competitiveness and energy security in the EU;”
Result	Adopted. 341 For; 311 Against; 9 Abstentions; 39 Didn’t vote; 65 Absent; 1 Documented Absence
Adopted resolution text	“5. Calls on the Council and the Commission to adopt and implement, as part of the EU’s 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, a multi-faceted approach based on mutually reinforcing, coordinated and coherent policies and ambitious binding targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency; asks the Commission and the Member States to take greater advantage of the interactions between these three targets, since they are the most appropriate tools for achieving the EU’s climate and energy objectives in a cost-effective way in the time horizon to 2030, providing investment certainty, and boosting and strengthening competitiveness and energy security in the EU;”
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VoteWatch Europe webpage on the vote • European Parliament Roll-Call Votes document (includes vote corrections)