

The Greens have arrived and, the seeming indifference of some TV programmes and commentators, today, the citizens know and acclaim that we

are here. .

The return of Europa Verde can only be good for our democracy and the

politics of the country. The seeds have been planted: now all that remains to be done is to let them sprout and grow.

BRUSSELS

EU partnerships – Another door opens to our future



by Maria da Graça
Carvalho MEP

Brussels (Brussels Morning) Last week, the European Parliament gave its final and emphatic approval to the new generation of Horizon Europe partnerships. They are nine in total and they constitute a key pillar of the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.

These investments total over 20 billion euro. At least half of them are supported by private partners. The funds are intended to address some of the main challenges Europe is facing right now, including digitisation, industry decarbonisation, health, biodiversity and circular economy, aviation and railways, among others. As I said, during the debate in Strasbourg, these partnerships are doors that open to our future.

As rapporteur, I was guided by the principles of openness, transparency and inclusion, which we want to be transversal to all of these partnerships. We want to strengthen the participation of small and medium-sized companies and start-ups. We want to streamline co-creation processes and we want to increase the proportion of innovative solutions that reach the market.

With those goals in mind, we sought to eliminate bureaucratic barriers, simplify processes, and create conditions for the possibility of synergies with other European and national programmes and funds.

We did all of this, not because we

doubted the effectiveness of previous experiences of public-private partnerships, but precisely because we firmly believe that they represent one of the keys to achieving our great goals.

This new generation of partnerships has the potential to enable us to achieve two goals that must be pursued simultaneously: the vision of a greener and more environmentally friendly Europe, and the vision of a competitive Europe, creating jobs, creating wealth, capable of offering an increasingly better quality of life to all its citizens. We want a Europe better prepared to face health crises, natural disasters, and scarcity of resources.

A recent example came from Global Health, a partnership that brought together the EU and several African countries. Earlier this month, the World Health Organization announced that it had decided to recommend the widespread use of the first-ever malaria vaccine for children in sub-Saharan Africa and other regions. This amazing breakthrough would have been impossible were it not for the role played Global Health.

Many, if not all of these initiatives



have the potential to change lives. For example, in the field of mobility, we have the Clean Aviation partnership, which aims to develop the commercial aircraft of the future, with low levels of CO2 emission. There are partnerships dealing with energy, in particular hydrogen, the circular economy, the digital, including 5G and 6G, as well as the production of microprocessors.

Ideas, knowledge and our innate ability to come up with concrete solutions, give us hope and comfort that we will overcome the enormous challenges that our planet and indeed humanity, face today.

Description of the partnerships

The nine partnerships, totalling about 20 bn euro, are funded by the EU budget, with matching contributions from industry. Primarily, they are roadmaps for innovation in each sector and fund projects that have an impact on the future direction of certain technologies.

The nine partnerships are:

- Circular Bio-based Europe
- Clean Aviation
- Clean Hydrogen

- Europe's Rail
- Global Health EDCTP3
- Innovative Health Initiative
- Key Digital Technologies
- Single European Sky ATM Research 3
- Smart Networks and Services

 BRUSSELS

Reducing Methane Emissions – A quick win on tackling climate crisis

by Maria Spyraiki MEP

Brussels (Brussels Morning)

Ahead of next month's COP26 in Glasgow, a challenge is rising. By concluding a global agreement on reducing methane emissions we can provide a new era for the fast-track reduction of GHG emissions.

After the announcement by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and US President Joe Biden of the Global Methane Pledge, the initiative to reduce global methane emissions scheduled for launching at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in November in Glasgow, we will have to start working intensively in order to prepare the legislative framework as soon as possible while also engaging with all the relevant stakeholders.

A powerful greenhouse gas, methane warms the planet 80 times as much as carbon dioxide (CO₂) does over a 20-year period, before decaying to CO₂.

We need to provide a fair, comprehensive and clear legislative framework, setting binding measures and reduction targets, covering all sectors, if we are to achieve a significant reduction in methane emissions in the EU by 2030.

Given how little action has been taken internationally on this issue, the lack of global leadership on the mitigation of methane emissions provides an opportunity for the EU to step forward. Methane emissions reduction should be a top priority for EU climate



diplomacy. Action is required preferably within the context of the EU's diplomatic and external relations. However, this should follow a UN-based pathway to spearhead a binding international agreement on methane mitigation – one that promotes coordinated actions designed to reduce methane emissions, while also strengthening methane mitigation requirements.

It is vital that we proceed with immediate and rapid reductions in methane emissions, paying due attention to economic and social sustainability, since this is one of the most effective measures available to us for EU climate action in this decade. Methane emission reductions complement the necessary reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. Many of the emissions cuts required by the Paris Agreement could have been achieved by now with low-cost and technically feasible

methane mitigation.

Following the recent climate agreement with the US, this represents our last best hope if we are to coalesce the world to move in the right direction. It is time to negotiate a binding global agreement on methane mitigation. The COP26 meeting in Glasgow is next in line to expand on the modelled pathways that limit global warming to 1.5°C from the IPCC 1.5°C Special Report, the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report and the 2021 United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Methane Global Assessment.

UNEP's Global Methane Assessment (2021) monetised global benefits for all market and non-market impacts at approximately 4,300 dollars per tonne of methane reduced and estimated that some 1,430 annual premature deaths could be prevented for every million tonnes reduced. Therefore, an impact assessment accompanying the