



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

2014/2153(INI)

18.3.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the European Energy Security Strategy
(2014/2153(INI))

Rapporteur: Filiz Hyusmenova

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that the EU cannot afford a continued fragmentation of the internal energy market; calls, therefore, for the full implementation of the existing regulatory framework (the Third Energy Package), sufficient energy interconnections between Member States and modernisation of the grids; believes, in addition, that the key objective of the EU energy security strategy must be to ensure that no Member State, or the EU collectively, is unduly vulnerable to disruption from a single energy supplier; emphasises that an energy security policy comprises various elements, with improved preparedness for disruptions in energy supply, cooperation and coordination in relations with third countries, and new infrastructure being just as important as, and developed in a way that chimes with, ambitions to develop renewable energy, implement energy efficiency measures and cut greenhouse gas emissions;
2. Underlines the positive impact that market integration has had on wholesale prices, and ultimately on retail prices in the electricity sector, allowing more affordable energy to be made available to citizens, and recalls that the potential net economic benefit that may be gained from the completion of the internal market for energy is in the range of EUR 16 billion to EUR 40 billion per year;
3. Believes that EU energy policy should seek to address the uncompetitive energy prices that have compounded the economic crisis and weakened European industrial competitiveness and which are affecting the overall energy security of our citizens;
4. Stresses the importance of Member States allocating adequate resources for market surveillance of the energy efficiency of products, so as to ensure a level playing field for the industry while providing consumers with the most useful information and the right tools to make informed choices, to find out how much energy they use and to reduce their energy consumption;
5. Points out that, according to the latest edition of the Consumer Markets Scoreboard, the electricity market is one of the four most poorly functioning markets; stresses the importance of action to improve the provision of information to consumers about the breakdown of energy prices and about energy efficiency measures that would enable them to be actively involved in regulating their energy use, including the option of changing their provider easily;
6. Recalls its previous positions on setting ambitious energy efficiency goals and on the importance of speeding up the implementation of measures geared towards achieving these goals; emphasises that energy efficiency measures at European level are of the utmost importance in order to guarantee the EU's energy independence while ensuring sustainable growth, developing training, creating jobs and enhancing the economic well-being of businesses, especially SMEs, and welcomes, in this connection, the proposal for the creation of a European Fund for Strategic Investments; demands, in this context, investments in energy efficiency, particularly in respect of buildings;

7. Stresses that important sectors could benefit from energy efficiency measures taken at EU and national level; calls on the Member States and the Commission to promote efficient energy use and to make full use of the opportunities afforded under public procurement directives to promote assessment on the basis of innovation and environmental criteria with a view to energy-efficient buildings and products becoming the norm; stresses the importance of providing consumers with accurate and simple information on the energy efficiency of those products; takes the view that further contributions to energy efficiency policy can be made by improving and further developing the legislation on energy labelling and ecodesign;
8. Stresses the added value of integrating ICT into energy systems in order to maximise energy efficiency, moderate demand, lower prices for consumers and empower them to better manage their energy usage; calls for the EU and its Member States to implement long-term campaigns to raise public awareness of the various ways of reducing energy consumption; emphasises the importance of ambitious energy efficiency policies for the residential sector in order to accelerate the renovation rate of buildings and improve district heating systems;
9. Recalls that it is necessary to strengthen the EU's preparedness and capacity to respond effectively to potential gas supply crises; stresses the importance of the consultations opened by the Commission on 15 January 2015 with the aim of identifying areas in which improvements to the current EU rules are required in order to guarantee the security of gas supplies; notes that there is a need for better and deeper cooperation and coordination between Member States in the field of energy security;
10. Emphasises that the development of renewables would have a positive environmental and economic impact, while also contributing to the EU's energy independence; emphasises the need to exploit the full potential of renewable energy, inter alia in the heating and cooling sector, and to develop smart grids and new energy storage solutions; stresses that, since technology is an essential element in reducing energy demand, it is vital to support innovative projects focusing on renewable and clean energy; calls for funding for 'secure, clean and efficient energy', as indicated in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013, to be protected, since it will enable the EU to become the world leader in renewable and clean energies; calls on the Member States and the Commission to guarantee regulatory stability for renewable energies and to ensure that investments made in line with the EU's energy objectives are protected, by providing a European level playing field;
11. Calls for greater attention to be paid to the emerging market for energy services (including energy performance contracting and energy service agreements); stresses the importance of developing standards for each element in the energy efficiency investment process; demands investments in energy efficiency, especially in buildings; stresses that important sectors such as tourism could benefit from energy efficiency measures taken at EU and national level; emphasises that coordinated and ambitious energy efficiency policies and measures for the residential sector are a stable, strategic, long-term solution to energy poverty;
12. Reminds the Member States of the recently produced European Energy Security Strategy and calls on them, in that connection, to step up regulatory and public financial support so

as to accelerate the renovation rate of buildings and the improvement and/or roll-out of district heating systems;

13. Calls on the Commission, the Member States and regions to allocate funds for the development of carbon capture and storage technologies;
14. Urges the Commission and the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) to place more emphasis on combating the problem of transmission curtailments at national borders; notes that savings equivalent to EUR 15 billion per year (10 % of the gas wholesale price) could be possible if existing market imperfections allowing uncompetitive price differentials between Member States are addressed; believes that a stronger role for ACER is necessary for a well-functioning internal energy market, as this requires both the significant development of infrastructure and of interconnectors that allow cross-border trade, and the rigorous enforcement of existing capacity allocation rules; calls for efforts to be stepped up with a view to improving cross-border interconnection and developing smart grids; finds it regrettable that some Member States are still in an 'energy island' as a result of a lack of energy interconnections with the rest of the EU, and that in certain regions of the EU increasing amounts of intermittent renewable energy cannot be transported to consumers owing to a lack of sufficient infrastructure;
15. Stresses that regulated energy pricing is detrimental to competition and investment, and that its elimination is a precondition for achieving a well-functioning energy market;
16. Urges the Commission to implement the measures (as laid down in the Third Energy Package) intended to ensure that people can exercise the right to choose an energy supplier; stresses that the exercise of this right is not only of significant importance to consumers, but also further stimulates the wholesale energy markets;
17. Believes that an improved and more robust emissions trading scheme should ensure that the investments needed to achieve the EU's long-term energy and climate objectives are obtained; stresses that the measures meant to strengthen the emissions trading scheme should safeguard the competitiveness of energy-intensive industry with a view to preventing business relocation, job losses and brain drain outside the European Union.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	17.3.2015
Result of final vote	+: 32 -: 5 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Dita Charanzová, Carlos Coelho, Sergio Gaetano Cofferati, Lara Comi, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Daniel Dalton, Dennis de Jong, Pascal Durand, Vicky Ford, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz, Antanas Guoga, Robert Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Jiří Maštálka, Eva Paunova, Jiří Pospíšil, Virginie Rozière, Christel Schaldemose, Olga Sehnalová, Mylène Troszczynski, Anneleen Van Bossuyt, Marco Zullo
Substitutes present for the final vote	Lucy Anderson, Jussi Halla-aho, Kaja Kallas, Emma McClarkin, Jens Nilsson, Julia Reda, Adam Szejnfeld, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Josef Weidenholzer, Kerstin Westphal
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Andrea Bocskor, Roger Helmer, György Hölvényi, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Emilian Pavel