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Energy in ACP countries  
key to growth and  
development

**Press Release**

# ***Energy in ACP countries key to growth and development***

Debate : 20.06.2006

Vote : 22.06.2006

Nita **DEERPALSINGH** (MP, Mauritius) and Nirj **DEVA** (EPP/ED, UK) on problematics of energy in the ACP countries

The Joint Parliamentary Assembly will adopt a resolution on the question of energy in ACP countries. The resolution will emphasise the importance of energy production undertakings in the ACP States having access to financial resources on favourable terms, in particular through international financial institutions, development banks and the European Investment Bank, so that they can make the very substantial investments necessitated by the expected increase in their production capacities and the growth in their distribution potential.

In the debate, the co-rapporteur Nita **DEERPALSINGH** (Mauritius) said that the aim of the report was to facilitate debate and identify areas where the ACP countries can develop energy supply and distribution as well as devise country strategy papers. There was great potential in non-fossil fuel energy resources including hydro-electric power. However, there was less information available on renewable energy as this was an area that remained largely untapped despite huge potential. The situation, she said, varied considerably from country to country. The advice contained in the report should encourage each ACP country to develop a national energy strategy paper as well as access the EU energy facility.

Nirj **DEVA** (EPP-ED, UK) said that the report was “*work in progress*” and did not serve as the “definitive bible” on energy. Mr Deva gave an overview of the global demand and supply of energy stating that demand from China and India would increase considerably. ACP countries represented only 12 per cent of total global demand, and this was likely to decrease in relative terms. The use of coal would be a possible solution but the disadvantage was the carbon dioxide emissions. There were huge challenges for ACP countries due to lack of investment in energy infrastructure. Hydro-electric power, he said, had great potential. Mr Deva also pointed out that 92 per cent of sub-Saharan African countries’ rural populations did not have access to electricity. The outlook was bleak, given the likely increase oil prices which he predicted would increase to over \$100 per barrel within two years.

In the report, the Assembly will call on the EU to assist ACP countries to formulate and implement long term energy master plans as part of an integrated broad strategy for ACP Countries to achieve Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The JPA will also ask ACP countries to give more attention to energy in their countries’ strategies for economic development, and not only to focus on large infrastructure projects, but also address the crucial issue of access to energy, specifically by the poor.

The report is due to be adopted on Thursday 22 June.

ACP/EU Joint Parliamentary website:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/60\\_11/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/acp/60_11/default_en.htm)

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