

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment

23.07.2012

DRAFT REPORT

on the importance of access to energy for sustainable economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment

Corapporteurs: Manuel Jiménez (Dominican Republic) and Horst Schnellhardt

PART A: DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-------------|
| | Page |
| PROCEDURAL PAGE | 3 |
| DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION..... | 4 |
| EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (published separately) | |

PROCEDURAL PAGE

At its meeting of 19 November 2011, the Bureau of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly authorised its Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment to draw up a report, pursuant to Rule 2(8) of its Rules of Procedure, on the importance of access to energy for sustainable economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

At its meeting of 22 March 2012, the Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment appointed Manuel Jiménez (Dominican Republic) and Horst Schnellhardt as co-rapporteurs.

The Committee on Social Affairs and the Environment considered the draft report at its meeting of 26 May 2012 and 19 September 2012.

At the latter meeting, it adopted the accompanying draft motion for a resolution.

The following were present for the vote: ...

The resolution was tabled for adoption on ...

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the importance of access to energy for sustainable economic development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

The ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly,

- meeting in Paramaribo (Suriname) from 26 to 28 November 2012,
- having regard to Article 18(1) of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement ('Cotonou Agreement') and in particular Article 32(1) on environment and natural resources and Article 32A on climate change,
- having regard to the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All (A/RES/65/151, New York, 20 December 2010),
- Having regard to the ACP-EU Energy Facility, a co-financing instrument, established in 2005, to support projects on increasing access to sustainable and affordable energy services for the poor living in rural and peri-urban areas in ACP countries,
- having regard to the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2, New York, 8 September 2000),
- having regard to paragraph 16 of the Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20, adopted by the African Union on 25 October 2011 (E/ECA/CFSSD/7/Min./3),
- having regard to the Joint Declaration on Rio+20 37th meeting, adopted by the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, held in Port Vila, 14-15 June 2012,
- having regard to the declaration entitled 'The Future We Want', adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 June 2012,
- having regard to the African Union Commission's Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), adopted at the Summit of African Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 30 January 2012,
- having regard to the Declaration of the First High Level Meeting of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership, held in Vienna from 14 to 15 September 2010,

- having regard to the European Commission initiative entitled ‘Energising Development’ (IP/12/372) of 16 April 2012 under the Africa-EU energy partnership,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 2 February 2012 on EU development cooperation in support of the objective of universal energy access by 2030¹,
 - having regard to the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on security of energy supply and international cooperation – ‘The EU Energy Policy: Engaging with Partners beyond our Borders’ (COM(2011)0539),
 - having regard to the opinion of the EP Committee on Development for the EP Committee on Industry, Research and Energy on engaging in energy policy cooperation with partners beyond our borders: A strategic approach to secure, sustainable and competitive energy supply (2012/2029(INI)),
- A. whereas an estimated 1.5 billion people, representing about 20 % of the world’s population, are deprived of access to electricity, and whereas almost all of them live in rural areas of developing countries;
 - B. whereas some 3 billion people rely on biomass for cooking and heating and approximately 1.5 million premature deaths result from stove-smoke every year;
 - C. whereas poor access to modern energy affects productivity in agriculture, it negatively impacts regional trade and integration, impedes job creation and entrepreneurship;
 - D. whereas reliance on traditional energy sources considerably increases the working hours spent on water and firewood collection, denies children’s right to education and women’s opportunities to have income-generating activities;
 - E. whereas the lack of a modern and reliable energy supply affects the quality of health services, preventing the use of modern diagnostic and therapeutic methods;
 - F. whereas, in the absence of a modern and reliable energy supply, it is impossible to secure the cooling chain, which would allow conservation and transport of vaccines and medicines, which are vital for keeping both livestock and humans healthy;
 - G. whereas ACP countries have a tremendous energy supply potential, particularly in renewable energies, and whereas energy production requires huge sustainable and long-term private and public investment;
 - H. whereas the preconditions for energy production and distribution vary greatly in the ACP countries, the solutions to improving access to energy as such need to take these differences into account;

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2012)0029.

- I. whereas the potential to maximally exploit the available renewable energy sources in ACP countries is constrained by lack of affordable renewable energy technologies;
1. Calls on all stakeholders to develop a greater awareness of the need for universal access to energy and to recognise its importance for achieving the MDGs; emphasizes that improving access to modern energy services contributes to sustainable development efforts
 2. Supports proposals to include the "universal access to energy" in a new set of MDGs after 2015
 3. Recognizes the fact that the European Union has already provided more than 1 billion Euro during the last 10 years to increase the access to energy in developing countries; calls upon the European Commission to monitor together with their ACP partners the progress in access to energy achieved with this funding, using verifiable and reliable indicators
 4. Urges development partners, including the European Union, to target their funding to improve the connectivity between households and big and smart grids; emphasizes the need for innovation in energy products suitable to the region and investment in their deployment
 5. Calls on the ACP governments to improve end-users' safe access to affordable modern energy, and ensure equal distribution of energy services and genuinely inclusive growth;
 6. Calls for the support and promotion of the transfer of affordable renewable energy technologies and innovations in ACP countries,
 7. Emphasises that specific measures improving the access to energy should be created in order to also let the poorest members of society benefit from these developments
 8. Calls for a continued support for the ACP-EU Energy Facility under the next Multi-Annual Financing Framework for the period 2014-2020,
 9. Reaffirms the right of ACP countries to determine their own energy mix and calls on them to formulate strategy papers defining their energy policies;
 10. Encourages the ACP countries through their respective National Authorising Officers to consider universal access to energy as a development priority and to promote energy as a focal sector of their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers;
 11. Calls on the EU to support ACP countries in building their institutional and technological capacities; underlines the importance of reliable legal frameworks and the respect for the rule of law as a prerequisite for foreign investments; calls on ACP states to make informed choices about appropriate business models to match the supply side with the demand side; encourages the EU member states to assist ACP countries in exchanging best practices and knowledge about suitable technologies;

12. Calls on all stakeholders to promote a balanced mixture of large projects and decentralised projects aimed at access to affordable energy services in ACP countries
13. Recalls that transparency and good governance are the basis for the ACP-EU development cooperation, including for the sector access to energy ;
14. Calls on the EU to promote private foreign investments in energy infrastructure and services through EU official development assistance by setting up public-private partnerships or credit guarantee programmes with banks;
15. Emphasises that ACP-EU energy-related development cooperation efforts should focus both on delivering more energy to more areas and on the quality of energy supply and energy efficiency;
16. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the ACP-EU Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament and the UN Human Rights Council.