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Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2011/2157(INI)

21.10.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy
(2011/2157(INI))

Rapporteur: Bogdan Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the reinforcement of the energy cooperation dimension of the ENP; recalls that security of energy supply through the diversification of sources and demand management, and deeper engagement with main suppliers and transit states remains an EU energy policy priority and that both eastern and southern neighbours remain a key focus of the coordinated EU external energy policy, as well as calls for effective measures to ensure that the principle of solidarity is applied in the field of energy; welcomes, in this regard, the Commission's communication on external energy policy and its proposal for a Decision on sharing information on intergovernmental agreements;
2. Draws attention to the importance of the eastern partnership in terms of ensuring the EU's energy supplies; in the light of the creation of new interconnections and pipelines in the gas sector, new interconnections and networks in the electricity sector, new infrastructures and terminals for LNG and new electrical power stations (using fossil fuels or renewable energy sources or based on nuclear projects), stresses the need to establish market rules and transparent and fair conditions for energy transit and trading, so as to ensure a stable future for investment; emphasises that such rules and conditions should promote high standards of environmental protection, democratic participation and health and safety;
3. Welcomes the proposal for the creation of a European Energy Community and believes that it could be an important step towards cooperation with our neighbours;
4. Welcomes the accession of Ukraine and Moldova to the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, in view of its potentially vital role in terms of ensuring the achievement of the EU's energy security objectives and contributing to security for those countries;
5. Welcomes all efforts towards strengthening of the Eastern Partnership, especially the Commission's flagship initiatives on SMEs and on regional energy markets and energy efficiency; believes that these efforts should be reflected in the multiannual financial framework;
6. Calls on the Commission to encourage, including through investment, the construction, upgrading and development of smart energy networks and infrastructure interconnections with EU neighbours; emphasises the importance of prioritising projects of EU interest in order to accelerate their development and implementation; notes in particular the importance of the construction and development of liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure;
7. Calls on the Commission to further develop the EU Black Sea Strategy, as it represents an important component of the EU's external energy strategy, given its geostrategic role, which offers a significant potential for energy security and supply diversification;
8. Recalls the importance of conventional energy (oil and gas), renewables and energy

efficiency as one of the drivers for the economic development of both the eastern and the southern neighbouring countries of the EU by becoming a source of new income and employment, generating new local energy sources, reinforcing the grid infrastructures and allowing for a new industrial component-manufacturing sector to be created; recognises that increased use of renewables is often impeded by a lack of incentives and by the current restricted capacity of grids in terms of receiving and distributing renewables-generated power; asks the Commission to encourage the development and promotion of local expertise in these fields, the transfer of know-how and the rapid roll-out of smart technology, as well as the fostering of joint research projects through support for training programmes targeting engineering faculties, renewable energy research centres and regulatory bodies;

9. Stresses the need for cross-border cooperation in the Danube region, given the region's status as the European gateway to the western Balkans, the role of the EU's Danube strategy in improving neighbourhood relations in central and south-eastern Europe, and the fact that the strategy represents a significant added value to EU policy for eastern Europe, thus constituting an excellent means for the whole Union to boost political and economic cooperation in the Balkans and to extend and consolidate the process of European integration in the region;
10. Underlines the importance of sharing the EU experience on energy sector reforms with neighbouring countries, such as Ukraine, in order to contribute to the modernisation of their gas transit system and to promote transparent market rules, protection of environment and fair conditions for energy trade;
11. Notes that nuclear security and safety should be key priorities of the EU's dialogue with its neighbours, particularly in regions that are prone to high seismic activity; considers that the EU should advocate international legally binding nuclear safety standards in multilateral discussions, including under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and should aim at extending nuclear safety assessments to EU neighbouring countries; highlights the need to encourage information sharing in nuclear research and the exchange of technological and scientific expertise in this field;
12. Welcomes the Commission's intention to accelerate the energy market integration and liberalisation process by encouraging further convergence of regulatory frameworks, building on the basis of the work of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy regulators (ACER); the merits of the Energy Community Treaty's due attention to risk of carbon leakage notwithstanding, deems the expansion and the deepening of the Energy Community to be necessary in order to ensure proper market performance and legal certainty for investments; encourages common regulatory projects such as MEDREG and the promotion of harmonised, transparent and non-discriminatory market rules and the exchange of know-how and experience;
13. Stresses the need to consolidate multilateral energy cooperation in the Black Sea region on the basis of the guiding principles laid down by the WTO and the Treaty on the Energy Charter; advocates full integration of the markets and the regulatory framework on the basis of EU energy and environmental legislation, and encourages the countries of the wider Black Sea region to adhere to the Treaty on the Energy Charter, while also

favouring the provision of assistance by the EU, the EIB and the EBRD for the modernisation of energy infrastructure in the ENP countries;

14. Reminds the members of the Energy Charter of their duties under the treaty and its amendments and protocols; stresses that any dispute settlements must be fully respected and applied; encourages accession to full membership by the current observer countries of North Africa;
15. Takes the view that the EU should encourage better cooperation on energy matters with ENP countries in order to ensure the security of energy supply and to promote the EU's internal market rules;
16. Supports further cooperation in sectors such as industry, SMEs, research, development and innovation, ICT including security of IT systems, space, and tourism; welcomes the Commission's proposals concerning the development of a common knowledge and innovation space and of a digital economy based on ICT, and calls on the Member States and neighbouring countries to reaffirm their commitment to progress towards this development; reiterates the importance of effective trade and investment facilitation mechanisms between the EU and its neighbouring countries in order to reinforce trade partnerships and allow economic operators, especially SMEs, to access adequate, reliable information on trade and investment conditions in partner countries;
17. Stresses the benefits of joint research programming initiatives by the EU and its neighbours; encourages in consequence the further development of coordination, cooperation and synergies among all the programmes and research activities at national level funded by the countries bordering on the Mediterranean, with a view to enhancing the overall coherence and effectiveness of environmental research actions in the region, taking as an example the joint research programme for the Baltic (BONUS 169);
18. Is aware of the achievements of the BSI (Black Sea Interconnection) project in terms of the creation of a regional research and education network in the wider Black Sea region, as well as its links with GEANT, and calls on the Commission to continue its support for research projects in the Black Sea region such as HP-SEE, SEE-GRID, SCENE, CAREN and BSRN;
19. Looks forward to the Commission's proposals on the new European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), welcomes the Commission's 'more for more' benchmark and encourages further differentiation, flexibility and conditionality in granting assistance; encourages the implementation of a 'country-oriented logic', which could take the form of 'differentiated partnership contracts' within the ENP; notes that, while EU financial rules must be fully observed, EU assistance should be easily accessible and mainly focused on support for concrete projects and less consultancy, and the pursuit of excellence should not be hampered by a rigid framework;
20. Believes it is important to strike an equitable balance between the eastern and southern neighbourhoods; calls on the Commission to accelerate the finalisation and implementation of Association Agreements, including DCFTAs;
21. Highlights the need to think of the ENP in terms of macro-regional strategy, with

regional-level coordination of Union and Member State actions; at the Euro-Mediterranean level, a synergy could be ensured between such a strategy and the multilateral projects launched in the framework of the Union for the Mediterranean, such as the Mediterranean Solar Plan, civilian security, the ‘marine highways’ or the action to fight pollution in the Mediterranean;

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.10.2011
Result of final vote	+: 35 -: 0 0: 4
Members present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Zigmantas Balčytis, Ivo Belet, Bendt Bendtsen, Jan Březina, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Christian Ehler, Adam Gierak, Norbert Glante, Jacky Hénin, Edit Herczog, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Krišjānis Kariņš, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Béla Kovács, Philippe Lamberts, Bogdan Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, Judith A. Merkies, Jaroslav Paška, Herbert Reul, Jens Rohde, Francisco Sosa Wagner, Konrad Szymański, Ioannis A. Tsoukalas, Claude Turmes, Niki Tzavela, Vladimir Urutchev, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Alejo Vidal-Quadras
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Maria Badia i Cutchet, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Sajjad Karim, Bernd Lange, Markus Pieper, Hannu Takkula, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Catherine Trautmann, Hermann Winkler
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Judith Sargentini