

2009 - 2014

Plenary sitting

22.4.2013 B7-0000/2013

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B7-0000/2013

pursuant to Rule 115(5) of the Rules of Procedure

European Parliament resolution on Microgeneration - Small scale electricity and heat generation

Judith A. Merkies

on behalf of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

RE\934458EN.doc PE510.530v02-00

B7-0000/2013

European Parliament resolution on on European Parliament resolution on Microgeneration - Small scale electricity and heat generation

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (2009/28/EC)1,
- having regard to the Commission Communication entitled 'Making the Internal Energy Market Work' and the accompanying working documents (COM(2012)0663), SWD(2012)367, SWD(2012)368,
- having regard to the Commission Communication entitled 'Renewable energy: a major player in the European energy market' (COM(2012)0271),
- having regard to the Directive on Energy Efficiency and its implications for heat and energy generation2,
- having regard to the Ecodesign Directive and its implications for eco product design and Micro CHPs.3,
- having regard to the European Parliament resolution on Revision of the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (A7 (2010) 0485)4,
- having regard to the written question to the Commission on microgeneration (E-010355/2011)5
- having regard to the oral question to the Commission on microgeneration (OQ O-2013-000031)
- having regard to Rules 115 (5) and 110 (2) of its Rules of Procedure
- A. Whereas the right of access to sufficient energy for a decent standard of living is a basic right for all;
- B. Whereas the European Union is increasingly dependent on imports from third countries for its energy supply and therefore change is needed in order to secure its climate, energy and growth goals;
- C. Whereas the use of fossil fuels as an energy source has increased the levels of CO2 in our

-

¹ OJ L 140 5.6.2009, p. 16.

² OJ 315 14.11.2012, p. 1.

³ OJ L 285 31.10.2009, p. 10.

⁴ Texts adopted, P7 TA(2010)0485.

⁵ OJ C 168 E, 14.06.2012.

atmosphere and thereby contributed to global climate change; whereas the European Union has set targets for renewable energy generation for 2020 and is currently working on a 2030 climate and energy policies framework; whereas no specific strategy on small-scale energy generation (microgeneration) currently exists and relevant provisions are dispersed throughout multiple legislative and non-legislative initiatives;

- D. Whereas European Union leaders should take the lead in addressing the energy transition, taking into account the need for involvement of all European citizens, regardless of income and wealth; whereas small-scale energy helps to combat energy poverty, leads to the creation of new jobs and economic growth and can lead to a new way of tackling the financial crisis;
- E. Whereas small-scale energy generation represents an opportunity for single households, small and medium enterprises as well as communities to become energy producers; whereas consumers acquire awareness of efficient ways to produce and consume energy; whereas empowering consumers to generate their own electricity and heat can lead to a more sustainable and participative society; whereas the Communication on the Internal Energy Market addresses the issue of empowering prosumers, yet there are still many challenges in the market to be tackled in order to achieve a prosumer society;
- F. Whereas microgeneration of energy can also play a role on global level;
- G. Whereas incentives for small scale energy and heat generation differ widely across Member States; whereas EU policies have largely failed to address the issues of small scale energy generation across Europe;

Introduction

- 1. Affirms that microgeneration will be a vital element in future energy generation if Europe is to meet its renewable energy targets in the long-term;
- 2 Recalls that the successful take-up of microgeneration is dependent upon many different factors, such as a well-functioning European internal energy market as well as effective policies to incentivise microgeneration on a European, national and local level;
- 3. Points out that energy poverty is a growing problem; emphasises that facilitating microgeneration can empower consumers to have more control over their energy use and reduce energy poverty; calls for special attention to be paid to tenants who are often deterred of efficiency-improvements and of generating their own energy;
- 4. Notes the importance of promoting local renewable energy cooperatives in order to increase citizens' participation, improve accessibility of renewable energy and generate financial investments;
- 5 Notes that little information is available on the capacity and future potential of microgeneration in Europe; believes better knowledge would allow microgeneration to play a crucial role in climate, energy and industrial policy;

6 Notes that large-scale uptake of microgeneration will significantly impact the networks, leading to large challenges for network regulators and operators on different levels;

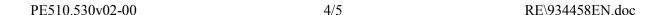
Regulatory framework

- 7. Calls on the European Commission to draw up guidelines for regulators and system operators on how to simplify the administrative burdens involved in operating and connecting microgeneration units to the grid;
- 8. Notes that the role of Distribution System Operators (DSOs) in a more decentralised energy network is rapidly evolving and calling for clarification; calls upon the European Commission and the national regulators to specify this role and to encourage DSOs to invest in the distribution system, with a view to improve the overall efficiency of the energy system;
- 9. Believes that effective co-ordinated action on small scale energy generation across Europe is needed as part of the creation of the European internal energy market;
- 10. Notes that different Member States have different aims and structures for their fiscal and legal provisions dealing with microgeneration which can be an impediment to the widespread uptake of microgeneration and calls on the Commission to work together with the Member States to identify and eliminate such barriers;

Infrastructure, products and standards

- 11. Suggests that EU metering legislation should be revised to standardise and facilitate "prosumer" activities on the grid and facilitate effective distribution management; requests that it be made possible to transfer energy between producer and consumer on a small scale as well, for example in a neighbourhood or cooperative;
- 12. Recalls that small-scale generators interact with the distribution network in different ways to large-scale generators and should therefore be treated differently in future legislation;
- 13. Is aware that a significant uptake of microgeneration might lead to challenges in the management of distribution networks, linked to matching of energy demand and supply; calls on Member States to facilitate access to the grid for microgenerators while addressing the issue of network costs related to the small-scale production of energy and maintaining efficient network management;
- 14. Notes that it has been shown that ownership projects enjoy better levels of acceptance and should therefore be facilitated, recalls that aggregators could play an important role in facilitating this but their role has so far been unclear in European legislation;
- 15. States that any legislation in the field of microgeneration should be in line with network codes; calls for an active distribution system management requiring strong cooperation between DSOs and Transmission System Operators (TSOs);

Specific actions





- 16. Calls on the Commission to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the potential capacity for microgeneration within the European Union and the potential impact of a large-scale uptake of microgeneration on the European internal energy market;
- 17. Recognizes the importance of European Union leadership on climate and energy policy and therefore calls on the Commission to include strategies for small scale electricity and heat generation into the existing policy framework, thereby recognizing its importance and facilitating its take-up in Member States;
- 18. Calls on the Commission to address microgeneration in future European energy legislation, particularly in the context of the EU's future 2030 climate and energy package;
- 19. Calls on the Commission, together with the Member States to look carefully at existing costs structures in the energy network and provide guidance on ways to facilitate the permitting, the access to the grid and the operating of microgeneration units;