DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

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

Rapporteur: Merja Kyllönen
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety 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. Considers that the challenges posed by climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy targets, a sustainable energy mix, energy security and the development of innovative energy technologies can only be met with a unified strategy on energy security issues;

2. Points out that increased energy security is inseparable from the need to move to a low-carbon economy; strongly calls, therefore, for a comprehensive strategy that builds on existing policy instruments, with the long-term objective of decarbonising the EU economy by 2050;

3. Stresses that action will only follow if measures are put forward together with the Member States; calls on the Commission to propose concrete steps and action plans, including legislation, for both the short and the long term; underlines the importance of both research and of local pilot projects in Member States, which contribute to energy security by improving the resilience of local systems;

4. Maintains that energy saving and energy efficiency are the fast and cost-effective routes to addressing issues such as energy security, external dependence, high prices and environmental concerns; underlines the potential for both in specific sectors such as buildings and transport;

5. Calls on the Commission to adopt measures to increase energy efficiency as a priority, thus also tackling the problem of low competitiveness resulting from high energy prices; underlines the importance of fully implementing the measures provided for in existing legislation, namely the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive;

6. Takes the view that a clear 2030 goal as agreed by the European Council, together with an ambitious action plan, will also serve energy security;

7. Calls on the Commission to step up the development and deployment of low-carbon technologies and to strengthen the role of renewable energy sources in order to save on fuel imports; welcomes the Commission’s view of renewable energy as a no-regrets option and stresses the importance of developing smarter energy grids and new energy storage solutions;

8. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to abolish all indirect subsidies for fossil fuels and to make full use of funds for financing renewables, based on binding renewable targets;

9. Reiterates the need to take immediate action in transport in terms of both efficiency improvements and alternative fuels; considers that in the area of housing, deep renovation
for energy efficiency should be a priority.