DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

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

Rapporteur: Arne Lietz
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs 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. Stresses that energy policy must be an integral part of the EU’s overall external policy, and that further efforts are needed to ensure better synergies between energy objectives and foreign policy; calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and the European External Action Service to coordinate closely the relevant foreign policy tools and instruments of the Member States and the EU institutions;

2. Considers that, in view of the EU’s high dependence on energy imports and the current dominance of a single gas supplier, it is urgent to diversify energy supply sources and energy routes;

3. Welcomes the efforts of the Commission to build an Energy Union and calls for its rapid implementation; recalls that a fully-fledged Energy Union can only be achieved when energy and external policy go hand in hand; stresses, in particular, the need for the EU and its Member States to speak with one voice at the international level and to develop a coherent energy diplomacy; invites the Commission to assess options for voluntary demand aggregation mechanisms that could increase the EU’s bargaining power;

4. Calls for a strong emphasis on energy security in the ongoing review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP); stresses, furthermore, that the Energy Community should be used as an instrument to integrate our neighbourhood more closely into the EU energy market;

5. Reiterates that energy cooperation must take into account the EU’s core values, such as the respect for human rights and democracy; calls on all actors of EU external policy to advocate the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in all contacts with third countries; calls on the VP/HR and the Commission to address the control of nuclear infrastructure within the EU by non-EU entities, and to closely monitor nuclear safety standards in the EU’s neighbourhood, as well as the management of European nuclear waste.