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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Questions for Oral Answer B6-0009/2006 and B6-0010/2006

pursuant to Rule 108(5) of the Rules of Procedure

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on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on security of energy supply in the European Union

European Parliament resolution on security of energy supply in the European Union

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission’s proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on conditions for access to the gas transmission networks (COM(2003) 741),
 - having regard to Articles 251(2) and 95 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament,
 - having regard to Council Directive 2004/67/EC of 24 April 2004 concerning measures to safeguard security of natural gas supply,
 - having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005 of 28 September 2005 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks,
 - having regard to the Green Paper of 8 March 2006 on a European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy (COM(2006) 105),
 - having regard to Rule 108(5) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas energy security should be considered an essential component of the global security concept and has an increasing impact on the overall security of the European Union,
- B. whereas there are three main objectives for EU energy policy: security of supply, competitiveness and protection of the environment,
- C. whereas EU electricity and gas transmission infrastructures (notably interconnections) are insufficient,
- D. whereas the EU energy market is, at the present time, not integrated and not sufficiently competitive,
- E. whereas there is, for the time being, no legal basis for a common European energy policy but there is a broad consensus among Member States on moving forward,
- F. whereas EU-25 import dependency for energy is 48% (2002) and is projected to rise to 71% by 2030 if no additional measure is taken, and whereas certainty of supply is one of the most important conditions for energy security,
- G. whereas 77% of EU demand for oil, 55% of demand for natural gas and almost 100% for uranium and uranium products is met from imports,
- H. whereas primary energy consumption in the EU-25 was 1700 million tonnes of oil

equivalent (Mtoe) in 2005, of which 38% oil, 23% gas, 18% coal/solid fuels, 15% nuclear and 6% renewable energy sources (RES),

- I. whereas final energy use in the EU-25 in 2004 was 28% in the industrial sector, 31% for transport and 41% in buildings,
 - J. whereas EU-25 gross electricity generation is 32% nuclear, 30% solid fuel (predominantly coal), 18% natural gas, 14% RES and 5% oil,
 - K. whereas final energy intensity in the EU-25 has regularly been reduced, so that about 70% of the energy used for a unit of economic output in 1980 is required in 2004; whereas overall primary energy consumption in the EU-25 has been growing at an average rate of 0.8% per year, equivalent to 0.5% per capita per year, during the same period,
 - L. whereas almost 60% of the oil consumed in Europe in 2004 is used by the transport sector; whereas the Commission expects energy demand in the transport sector to grow by at least 30% by 2030, with an increase of up to 5% per year for air transport,
 - M. whereas 29% of the gas consumed in the EU-25 in 2004 was used for the production of electricity, with the remaining 71% used in non-electricity production (industry, housing, etc),
 - N. whereas demand for coal in the EU has been decreasing for many years, and import dependency was already 50% in the EU-15 and is rising as a proportion of consumption of coal,
 - O. whereas thirteen Member States generate nuclear electricity and certain Member States have a declared policy of phasing out nuclear power,
 - P. whereas the EU has set targets for increasing the share of energy consumption from RES from 6% to 12% and to 22.1% for electricity and 5.75% for fuel by 2010,
 - Q. whereas the EU should take advantage of its massive potential to save energy in all sectors, including transport, as well as to develop non-CO₂-emitting energy sources and technologies,
1. Notes that recent disputes over gas prices between Russia and its neighbours, but also the recent increase in the price of crude oil, have emphasised the vulnerability of the supply and distribution of energy; notes that energy policy in the narrow sense has to be connected with foreign and security policies; calls on the Commission to respond to recent calls for a common energy policy;
 2. Calls on the EU to take the initiative to establish broad cooperation with all the large oil and gas consuming countries – the US, Japan and large emerging economies such as India and China – to work out a comprehensive and global energy strategy; insists that this strategy should also promote energy saving and efficiency and the use of alternative energy sources;
 3. Recognises the importance of good political relations with the EU's major energy supply

partner and transit countries, supports the Commission initiative with Russia and calls for urgent ratification of the Energy Charter;

4. Calls upon the Member States to recognise the need to launch a strategy on energy security allowing the EU joint action in the energy field and taking steps aimed at creating EU energy policy while recalling that market mechanisms are vital to the effective functioning of the global energy system;
5. Agrees with the Council conclusion that a shared view on a strategy for security of supply should respect Member States' geographical, economic, regional, climatic and structural differences, promote further market opening in the EU, be consistent with sustainable development as well as climate change commitments within the energy sector and add value in comparison with action by individual Member States;
6. Calls on the Commission to develop a mechanism to prepare and ensure prompt expressions of solidarity with and assistance to a country facing difficulties relating to the physical security of infrastructure and security of supply: considers that a sudden and large-scale interruption of energy supply affecting one or more Member States could have an impact on the functioning of the internal market; believes that solidarity among Member States should encompass the readiness to assist those which are endangered or in difficulty in situations of extreme crisis, for example as a result of natural catastrophes, terrorist actions or politically motivated cuts in supplies or when the security of its citizens is seriously endangered;
7. Advocates strengthening the European Neighbourhood Policy, placing special emphasis on cooperation with the neighbouring countries in the energy field, including transportation infrastructure, to which special financial assistance should be provided; calls for the inclusion of energy policy cooperation in the Action Plans being elaborated under the European Neighbourhood Policy;
8. Opposes the exploitation of energy policy as a tool to bring pressure to bear in the field of external relations;
9. Calls on the Commission to consider the possibility of including an energy security clause in agreements with countries which are energy suppliers or countries of transit for energy;
10. Encourages European enterprises to increase investment in exploration and transit of energy in neighbouring countries while promoting their wealth and economic development;
11. Notes the call by the Commission for an energy chapter in the Treaties, which has been supported by Parliament in the past, and considers that it is the appropriate moment for Member States to deliberate on further steps in this direction;
12. Notes that a common energy policy must be based on individual and differentiated strategies of the Member States to reduce their dependence on oil and gas and is therefore complementary to the national strategies, coordinating rather than replacing national measures;

13. Calls for an approach based on fairness and shared responsibility in carrying out energy policy at national level, so that, when strategic decisions are taken, those partners among EU Member States which might be affected by the decisions are also consulted;
14. Notes the need to take concrete steps to diversify gas and oil supply as well as to explore all possible means of reducing the European Union's dependency on imported energy;
15. Considers the level of dependence upon oil, particularly imported oil, to be of great concern, particularly having regard to all the efforts made by Member States to reduce dependency since the mid-1970s and the apparently inexorable rise in consumption in the transport sector; calls therefore for an exploration of all possible ways of reducing the European Union's dependency on imported energy;
16. Recognises the growing importance of gas, as its share in total energy rises towards 25%, and the need to use different strategies to ensure the security of gas supply, such as the development of LNG terminals and storage facilities as well as new pipelines;
17. Recognises the role that nuclear energy currently plays in maintaining security of electricity supply, as a significant part of the energy mix and as a way of avoiding an estimated 312 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year (7% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the EU); notes that current estimates project a 12% increase in EU CO₂ emissions by 2020, well short of the Kyoto target of an 8% reduction;
18. Considers that the evolution of the Kyoto framework after 2012 needs active consideration now, to allow the markets to take into account the cost of carbon in major investment programmes, recognising that European competitiveness and growth are already going to be reduced by higher labour and electricity costs;
19. Reaffirms its strong support for RES, calls on Member States to redouble efforts to achieve the targets of a 12% share of total energy consumption and 22.1% of electricity from RES by 2010 and welcomes the adoption of the Directive on electricity from RES;
20. Strongly holds the view that an essential part of maintaining security of supply is the rapid transposition of current EU provisions by all Member States to achieve a fully functioning internal market in electricity and gas to enhance competitiveness, transparency and energy efficiency;
21. Urges therefore the Commission, together with Member States, to adopt concrete measures for a genuinely efficient European internal market in energy, such as synchronising/coordinating the rules of the sector as well as guaranteeing reciprocity between Member States in liberalisation processes, promoting incentives for the infrastructures of the sector, taking into account TENs (Trans-European Energy Networks) priorities, and balancing the relationships between European enterprises which operate in the EU liberalised market and the monopolistic state-owned enterprises which operate in the producing countries;
22. Considers it essential to further develop electricity and gas interconnections, this being an

essential condition for a more integrated EU energy market;

23. Calls on the Commission to resist any measures blocking the free movement of capital and any distortion of the internal market caused by protectionist support for national market leaders;
24. Calls on the Council to accept Parliament's position on TENs priorities in order to complete the missing links in TENs so as to improve security of supply as well as complete the internal market, by supporting specific projects, where appropriate;
25. Considers therefore that fiscal measures would be more effective as an incentive rather than a deterrent and should only be used as part of a package of technical and regulatory measures, while voluntary agreements with industry are a useful example of what can be done;
26. Considers it urgent that the Commission should submit proposals and work with the industry to hasten the application of hydrogen and fuel cells to bring about sustained, long-term improvements in energy efficiency and conservation in the transport sector, and stresses that the production of hydrogen should preferably come from non-CO₂-emitting energy sources;
27. Notes the considerable potential of clean coal technology for energy efficiency gains, reductions in polluting emissions and a worldwide market for new equipment and systems, and calls for industry and the 7th Framework Programme of Research (7FP) to achieve a successful demonstration of clean coal power systems; believes, therefore, that it is essential to maintain a viable indigenous coal production industry while recognising the need for greater efficiencies and reduced subsidies;
28. Considers it essential that the EU lead by example in maintaining research expenditure within the 7th Framework Research Programme on future energy technologies such as nuclear fusion, fuel cells, the hydrogen cycle, electric batteries and other energy storage systems;
29. Notes that all the forecasts concur that conventional power stations will continue to account for a large share of electricity generation even in the long term and is therefore in favour of promoting research and development concerning the efficiency of such power stations and ways of increasing it;
30. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments of the Member States.