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DRAFT OPINION

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

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on accelerating clean energy innovation
(2017/0000(INI))

Rapporteur: Stefan Eck

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 citizens represent one of the main channels for society's uptake of low-carbon innovative solutions, which have a substantial impact on levels of green energy consumption; calls therefore on the Commission and the Member States to focus more efforts on facilitating and enhancing citizens' access to such solutions;
2. Recalls that regulatory quality and public sector integrity are two dimensions of public governance that are critically important for investment in clean energy innovation and infrastructure;
3. Highlights the importance of ensuring that in the future a European low-carbon transition is not geared solely to the interests of large corporations but is focused primarily on the need for provision of public services;
4. Stresses that the burden of environmental degradation, air pollution and health costs stemming from extracting and burning fossil fuels is not carried by the industry but paid for by society; considers that fossil fuel subsidies present a major obstacle to clean energy innovation and at least a partial redirection of these will have an enormous impact on financing and the uptake of low-carbon innovation which is in line with the Union's long-term climate and energy goals; calls on the Commission and the Member States to jointly develop a roadmap for the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies by 2020 with strict timelines and country-specific and measurable outcomes;
5. Acknowledges the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for stimulating action to deliver key standards in areas such as access to sustainable energy in a world where an estimated 1.3 billion people do not have access to electricity, where 3 billion people are without clean cooking facilities and where carbon monoxide poisoning kills more people than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined; points out therefore that global sustainable energy initiatives are crucial for reducing poverty worldwide and for closing the gap between achieving universal energy access by 2030 as defined by the UN SDGs and the current rate of progress.