

27 September 1999

FINAL
A5-0016/1999



RECOMMENDATION FOR SECOND READING

on the common position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of Decision No /1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community (ALTENER) (1998-2002) (7122/1/1999 – C5-0032/1999 - 1997/0370(COD))

Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy

Rapporteur: Werner Langen

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PROCEDURAL PAGE

At its sitting of 11 March 1999 Parliament delivered its opinion at first reading on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community (Altener II) (1998-2002). COM(1997) 550 -1997/0370(COD).

The proposal is included on the list of Commission proposals pending at 1 May 1999 for which entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam entails a change of legal basis and/or procedure.

At the sitting of 6 May 1999 Parliament confirmed the text adopted on 11 March 1999 as its first reading under the codecision procedure.

At the sitting of 23 July 1999 the President of Parliament announced that the common position had been received and referred to the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy.

The committee appointed Mr Langen rapporteur at its meeting of 29 July 1999.

It considered the common position and the draft recommendation for second reading at its meetings of 29 July, 31 August and 21 and 22 September 1999.

At the last meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Westendorp y Cabeza, chairman; Ahern and Mombaur, vice-chairmen; Langen, rapporteur; Alyssandrakis, Ayuso González (for Bodrato), Baltas, Beysen (for Clegg), Butel, Chichester, De Clercq, Désir, Jonathan Evans (for Karoutchi), Ferrer, Flesch, Folias, Ford, Foster (for Lamassoure, pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Gallagher, Gill (for Carraro), Glante, Hansenne, Harbour, Kuhne (for Caudron), Liese (for Schwaiger), Linkohr, Lucas, McAvan, McNally, Erika Mann, Hans-Peter Martin (for Desama), Montfort, Murphy, Paasilinna, Piétrasanta, Plooij-van Gorsel, Pohjamo (for Thors), Purvis, Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Radwan (for van Velzen), Raschhofer, Read, Rothe, Roving, Rübig, Schnellhardt (for Matikainen-Kallström), Ilka Schröder., Turmes (for Maes), Valdivielso de Cué, Wijkman and Zimeray.

The recommendation for second reading was tabled on 27 September 1999.

The deadline for tabling amendments to the common position or proposals for declarations of intended rejection will be indicated in the draft agenda for the relevant part-session.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the common position adopted by the Council with a view to the adoption of Decision No /1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community (ALTENER) (1998-2002) (7122/1/1999 – C5-0032/1999 - 1997/0370(COD))

(Codecision procedure: second reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the common position of the Council, 7122/1/1999 - C5-0032/1999,
 - having regard to its position at first reading¹ on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council, COM(1997)0550², and the amended Commission proposal, COM(1999) 212³
 - having regard to Article 251(2) of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Rule 80 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation for second reading of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy (A5-0016/1999),
1. Amends the common position as follows;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this position to the Council and Commission.

¹ OJ C 175, 21.6.1999, p. 268.

² OJ C 175, 21.6.1999, p. 262.

³ Not yet published in the OJ

(Amendment 1)
Recital 9a (new)

In its resolution of 14 November 1996^{1a} on the Commission White Paper on an energy policy for the European Union, the European Parliament called on the Commission to develop a financial programme to stimulate renewable energy; in its resolution of 15 May 1997 on the Green Paper on renewable sources of energy it called for attention to be paid to the possibility of coordinating policies and initiatives in the sphere of renewable energy and energy efficiency in order to develop potential existing synergies and avoid duplication of efforts wherever possible; and in its motion for a resolution of 29 May 1998 on the White Paper on renewable sources of energy it called for a Charter on Renewable Energies (Eurenew) to be drawn up;

^{1a} OJ C 362, 2.12.1996, p. 279.

Justification:

Bearing in mind that there is no specific section on energy policy in the Treaty on European Union, this amendment refers to the need for the Member States to make an explicit commitment in the Community strategy and action plan for renewable sources of energy by drawing up a Charter on Renewable Energies (EURONEW)

(Amendment 2)

Council Decision 1999/468/EC established new procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission with the aim of improving the involvement of the European Parliament;

Justification:

This amendment clarifies the role of the management committee by making reference to the new pertinent Council decision.

(Amendment 3)
Article 1(1)(a)

(a) help create the necessary conditions for the implementation of a Community action plan for renewable energy sources, and in particular the legal, socio-economic and administrative conditions;

(a) help create the necessary conditions for implementing the Community strategy and action plan and boosting the launch campaign, as called for in the above-mentioned Commission White Paper of 26 November 1997 entitled 'Energy for the future: renewable sources of energy', and in particular the legal, socio-economic and administrative conditions;

Justification:

This amendment seeks to strengthen support for the launch campaign for the Community strategy and action plan for renewable sources of energy.

(Amendment 4)
Article 1(1)(b)a (new)

(b)a establish the bases for the development of new instruments and mechanisms which will allow faster coordinated market penetration of all sustainable energy technologies.

Justification:

Since, under this proposal, the new programme (ALTENER II) is to be encompassed within the multiannual framework programme for actions in the energy sector (1998-2002), the above amendment is necessary in order to enable energy efficiency to be applied as required to develop renewable sources of energy.

(Amendment 5)
Article 1(3) (new)

3. The appropriation for implementation of the ALTENER programme shall be EUR 81.1 m, of which EU 29.6 m shall cover the years 1998 to 1999.

The appropriation for the years 2000 to 2002 shall be EUR 51.5 m. That amount shall be revised if it is inconsistent with the financial perspective for the period in question.

The budgetary authority shall approve the annual appropriations without exceeding the

limits laid down in the financial perspective.

Justification:

This amendment intends to re-establish the figures originally proposed by the Commission.

(Amendment 6)
Article 2(e)a (new)

(e)a actions intended to promote significantly the export of technology in the form of renewable energy sources through the greater inclusion thereof in the energy and cooperation areas of external policy, and by strengthening the European Renewable Energies Export Council.

Justification:

To take advantage of the leading position which European industry occupies in the renewable energy sector, industrial cooperation should be pursued with non-member countries, and exports promoted. The means required to achieve those ends is to strengthen the European Renewable Energies Export Council, a federation of all the organisations specialising in individual renewable sources (wind power, solar energy, hydroelectric energy, heat energy, etc.).

(Amendment 7)
Article 5

The Commission shall be assisted, for the purposes of implementing the ALTENER programme, by the Committee referred to in Article 4 of Council Decision 1999/21/EC, Euratom.

Without prejudice to Article 8 of Council Decision 1999/468/EC, the Commission shall be assisted, for the purposes of implementing the ALTENER programme, by the Committee referred to in Article 4 of Council Decision 1999/21/EC, Euratom.

Justification:

This amendment clarifies the role of the management committee by making reference to the pertinent Council decision.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

On 18 November 1997 the Commission submitted a proposal for a Council Decision adopting a multiannual framework programme for actions in the energy sector and connected measures. Annex IV to the document (COM(1997) 550) deals with the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community, that is to say, the ALTENER programme. On the basis of the draft report of 25 February 1999 by Carlos Robles Piquer, Parliament delivered its opinion at first reading on 11 March 1999.

Now that the Treaty of Amsterdam has entered into force, the legal basis has changed. Annex IV, relating to renewable energy sources, to the multiannual programme for the energy sector consequently falls within the scope of the codecision procedure. That being the case, the Commission extensively revised and altered its proposal on 21 May 1999 in accordance with the decisions taken by Parliament on 11 March 1999. ALTENER thus forms part of the Community strategy and action plan for renewable sources of energy, the aim of which is to double the proportion of gross Community domestic energy consumption accounted for by those sources to reach 12% by the year 2010. On 28 June 1999 the Council adopted a common position based on the amended Commission proposal. The common position is largely in line with the amended Commission proposal and the calls made by Parliament in March 1999. In addition to certain clarifications and updated details, ALTENER is to be encompassed within the multiannual energy framework programme, and a proposal on the appropriations required to implement the programme has been attached.

Recognising that there is a broad measure of agreement in principle on the future shape of the ALTENER programme and proceeding from the decisions taken on 11 March 1999, Parliament is now proposing seven amendments in all, since it believes that the points to which they relate have not been properly covered to date by the amended Commission proposal or the Council's common position.

Amendment 1 calls on the Member States to draw up a voluntary Charter on Renewable Energies, thereby giving effect to Parliament's resolution of 15 May 1997 on the Green Paper on renewable sources of energy. Furthermore, a campaign to foster acceptance of renewable energy should be launched as called for by Parliament, especially once the necessary legal, socio-economic, and administrative conditions have been put in place.

Parliament also considers it necessary to establish the bases on which to develop new instruments and mechanisms to allow faster coordinated market penetration by all sustainable energy technologies. To promote technology exports in the form of renewable energy sources, those sources should be taken into account to a greater extent in the energy and cooperation areas of external policy. Efforts should obviously focus primarily on the Central and Eastern European countries wishing to join the Union.

In Amendment 7 Parliament, having regard to the Council's 'commitology' Decision of 29 July 1999, is proposing that the Committee referred to in Article 5, the purpose of which is to assist the Commission in running and implementing the multiannual framework programme for actions in the energy sector, should be given additional guidelines and recommendations for its work in connection with the legal decision. Parliament is looking to the Committee to give priority to measures to promote the contribution of sustainable energy technologies, and in particular activities to encourage the use of efficient renewable energy sources, and to pay heed to the guidelines and recommendations of the working party set up under the White Paper on renewable sources of energy, consisting of representatives of the Commission and the Member States.