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*****III REPORT**

on the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee for a European Parliament and Council decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community – Altener (C5-0333/1999 – 1997/0370(COD))

European Parliament delegation to the Conciliation Committee

Rapporteur: Werner Langen

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position
- *** Assent procedure
majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and Article 7 of the EU Treaty
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend the common position
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

Abbreviations for committees

- I. AFET Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy
- II. BUDG Committee on Budgets
- III. CONT Committee on Budgetary Control
- IV. LIBE Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs
- V. ECON Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
- VI. JURI Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market
- VII. INDU Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy
- VIII. EMPL Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
- IX. ENVI Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Policy
- X. AGRI Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development
- XI. PECH Committee on Fisheries
- XII. REGI Committee on Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism
- XIII. CULT Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport
- XIV. DEVE Committee on Development and Cooperation
- XV. AFCO Committee on Constitutional Affairs
- XVI. FEMM Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities
- XVII. PETI Committee on Petitions

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PROCEDURAL PAGE

At the sitting of 11 March 1999 Parliament adopted its position at first reading on the proposal for a Council decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community – Altener (COM(1997) 550 - 1997/0370 (COD)).

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 (7122/1/1999 - C5-0032/1999).

At the sitting of 6 October 1999 Parliament adopted amendments to the common position.

By letter of 28 October 1999 the Council stated that it was unable to approve all Parliament's amendments.

The President of the Council, in agreement with the President of Parliament, convened a meeting of the Conciliation Committee on 11 November 1999.

At that meeting the Conciliation Committee considered the common position on the basis of the amendments proposed by Parliament.

At the same meeting it reached agreement on a joint text.

On 23 December 1999 the co-chairmen of the Conciliation Committee established that the joint text had been approved, pursuant to paragraph III.8 of the Joint declaration on practical arrangements for the new co-decision procedure,¹ and forwarded it to Parliament and the Council in all the official languages.

On 20 January 2000 Parliament's delegation to the Conciliation Committee adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following took part in the vote: James L.C. Provan, Vice-President and chairman of the delegation; Ingo Friedrich and Renzo Imbeni, Vice-Presidents; Carlos Westendorp y Cabeza, chairman of the Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy; Werner Langen, rapporteur; Eduard Beysen (for Elly Plooij-van Gorsel), Jonathan Evans (for Paul Rübig), Françoise D. Grossetête, Rolf Linkohr, Eryl Margaret McNally, Mechtild Rothe, Esko Olavi Seppänen, Claude Turmes and W.G. van Velzen.

The report was tabled on 25 January 2000.

¹ OJ C 148, 28.5.1999, p. 1.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

European Parliament legislative resolution on the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee for a European Parliament and Council decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community – Altener (C5-0333/1999 – 1997/0370(COD))

(Codecision procedure: third reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee (and the relevant Council, Commission and Parliament statements)(C5-0333/1999),
 - having regard to its position at first reading² on the Commission proposal to Parliament and the Council (COM(1997) 550³),
 - having regard to the Commission's amended proposal (COM(1999)212 – C4-0245/1999⁴),
 - having regard to its position at second reading on the Council common position⁵,
 - having regard to the Commission's opinion on Parliament's amendments to the common position (COM(1999) 560 – C5-0248/1999⁶),
 - having regard to Article 251(5) of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Rule 83 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of its delegation to the Conciliation Committee (A5-0011/2000),
1. Approves the joint text, and confirms its statement thereon;
 2. Instructs its President to sign the act with the President of the Council pursuant to Article 254(1) of the EC Treaty;
 3. Instructs its Secretary-General duly to sign the act and, in agreement with the Secretary-General of the Council, to have it published in the Official Journal of the European Communities;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this legislative resolution to the Council and Commission.

² OJ C 175, 21.6.1999.

³ OJ C not yet published.

⁴ OJ C not yet published.

⁵ OJ C not yet published.

⁶ OJ C not yet published.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Introduction

The main purposes of the European Parliament and Council decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community – Altener: 1998 – 2002 are to create the conditions for implementing a Community action plan in this field and encourage investment by public and private consumers in the production and use of energy from renewable sources.

It forms part of the outline programme for action in the energy sector and follows on from the first Altener programme, which expired at the end of 1997. In order to ensure continuity of Community policy it was necessary to adopt Altener for a provisional period of two years, by means of a Council decision of 18 May 1998, which runs out at the end of this year.

For this programme, on 18 November 1997 the Commission proposed studies, pilot schemes, measures to encourage the dissemination of information, or targeted actions to ease the penetration of renewable energy sources and encourage investment. The purpose of these schemes, studies and measures is to fulfil the Union's priority aims, which are: to limit CO₂ emissions, increase the share of renewable energy sources in total energy production, reduce dependence on energy imports, and ensure security of supply, cohesion and local and regional development.

The Commission proposal contained a financial statement with an amount of EUR 81.1 million for the period concerned. This represented 40 % of the funding provided under the above framework programme for energy.

The decision at first and second reading

The subject was discussed in the Robles Piquer (PPE, E) report, adopted at first reading on 11 March 1999 with 26 amendments. The report pointed out that Altener should help to achieve the Community target of producing 15 % of primary energy demand from renewable energies by the year 2010. The report also emphasised the potential of renewable energies for creating jobs and encouraging innovation, and the aim of defining mechanisms to allow all sustainable energy technologies to penetrate the market in a rapid and coordinated manner.

Following entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam, Parliament confirmed, as first reading under the codecision procedure, its previous opinion. The Commission accepted most of the amendments it contained.

The Council then adopted its common position on 28 June 1999, incorporating 16 of Parliament's amendments in full or in part. It is worth noting that the Council inserted in the text a total financial allocation of EUR 74 million. The Commission broadly supported the content of the common position.

At second reading Parliament adopted the Langen report (PPE-DE, D), containing eight amendments, on 6 October 1999. Its main proposals were to raise the financial framework to EUR 81.1 million (the Commission's original figure) and open up the programme to the associated Mediterranean countries. The report also mentions the Commission White Paper on energy policy for the European Union, the Green Paper on renewable energy sources and

the new decision on commitology. It further expanded the aims and activities already set out in the programme.

The Commission accepted seven of the eight amendments Parliament proposed, either in full or in part, including the budgetary allocation.

The decision in conciliation

As the current programme would be expiring at the end of 1999 and the Council could not accept the amendments adopted, the Finnish Presidency decided, in agreement with Parliament's President, to convene a conciliation committee at short notice. Its constituent meeting thus took place on 20 October 1999.

At the trialogue of 3 November 1999 agreement was reached on three amendments, including the references to the above White and Green Papers.

At the Conciliation Committee meeting of 11 November 1999 compromise wordings were agreed for four other amendments, including a statement for publication in the *Official Journal* to the effect that the matter of opening up the Altener Programme to the associated Mediterranean countries will be on the table at the next programme review.

The one remaining issue was the financial allocation, where a difference of EUR 7.1 million still separated Parliament from the Council. This was discussed at a meeting on 1 December 1999 between the chairman of the Parliament delegation, Mr Provan, and the appropriate Finnish minister, Mr Tuomioja. At that meeting the Council agreed to increase the financial amount to EUR 77 million, an increase of EUR 3 million on the Council's starting figure.

A meeting of the Parliament delegation on 9 December 1999 accepted this Council offer, and the Conciliation Committee, meeting the same day to discuss the Culture 2000 programme, approved the final wording of the programme as an 'A' item (without debate).

Conclusions

We may regard the end result of conciliation as satisfactory for Parliament, as the joint text has incorporated most of its amendments, either in full or in a reworked form. We therefore propose that the House adopt it at third reading.