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Committee on Development

2007/2091(INI)

10.9.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on Conventional energy sources and energy technology
(2007/2091(INI))

Draftswoman: Margrete Auken

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses the need for urgent action in the field of access to energy, conventional energy sources and energy technology in order to address the issue of economic and social development and climate change;
2. Notes that increased access to sustainable energy is key to developing countries achieving their Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is estimated that 2 billion people currently suffer from energy constraints that limit their opportunities for economic development and improved standards of living;
3. Owing to a number of outstanding issues concerning the viability of the technology, considers neither carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology nor - given the considerable security risk involved - nuclear energy to be sustainable;
4. Calls for increased cooperation with developing countries, together with reinforced support for such countries and the transfer of technology and resources to them by the EU, in the field of sustainable energy capacity, renewable energy and energy efficiency; notes the obvious advantages afforded by favourable climatic conditions in fields such as solar energy, which provides an effective way of meeting soaring oil costs;
5. Stresses, however, that certain renewable energy sources, including bioethanol from agricultural raw materials, could harm traditional agriculture and have a negative impact on global food production, and would have harmful consequences for the environment (for example, deforestation of the Amazon region); stresses, too, that, in view of these adverse effects, this alternative solution must be studied very carefully, and therefore calls on the Commission to continue its work on developing sustainability criteria for biofuels;
6. Calls for further improvements to be made to the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) so that it can fulfil its purpose as an opportunity to transfer efficient, clean and appropriate energy technologies to developing countries;
7. Recognises the potential that the EU's 'Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund' (GEEREF) offers as a global risk capital fund capable of mobilising private investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in developing countries;
8. Calls for the European Commission to step up its action on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to ensure that Multinational Energy Enterprises in the developing world are making every effort to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and cleaner fossil fuels technologies, as well as ensuring proper health and safety conditions for staff;
9. Considers, however, that fossil fuels for a transitional period are also needed in order to meet the legitimate demands of developing countries, and calls for measures to improve

the sustainable use of local resources in the most energy-efficient manner; notes the threat that agro fuels constitute for biodiversity and food security in developing countries;

10. Given the urgency of the situation, calls for an immediate increase in support to developing countries in using clean coal technologies, which have been proven to be viable and effective;
11. Recognises the urgent need to accelerate the demonstration and deployment of CCS in order to limit emissions during developing countries' transition period from fossil fuels to renewables; in this context calls on increased support for research programmes, the development of necessary legal and financial frameworks, as well as collaboration with industry to ensure that all new coal power plants are CCS-compatible from 2010;
12. Supports the promotion of projects and technologies that improve energy efficiency and energy security in developing countries and that are adjusted specifically to the needs and conditions in those countries, such as teaching people how to produce their own energy-efficient stoves, which can help both to create employment and to combat further desertification and climate change and improve health.

PROCEDURE

Title	Conventional energy sources and energy technology
Procedure number	2007/2009(INI)
Committee responsible	ITRE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	DEVE 26.4.07
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Margrete Auken 17.7.07
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	27.8.07
Date adopted	10.9.07
Result of final vote	+ : 9 - : 8 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Thijs Berman, Nirj Deva, Alain Hutchinson, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Maria Martens, Luisa Morgantini, José Javier Pomés Ruiz, Horst Posdorf, Pierre Schapira, Jürgen Schröder, Feleknas Uca, Johan Van Hecke, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Jan Zahradil, Mauro Zani
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Irena Belohorská, John Bowis, Atanas Paparizov, Ralf Walter
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	...