

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5819/08
by Aldo Patriciello (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: The renewable energy situation in France

In the context of the assessments provided for in Directive 2001/77/EC¹ on progress made in the renewable electricity sector (COM(2006)0849) and on the related support systems (COM(2005)0627), the Commission noted the following.

Firstly, the mixed incentive system (for power supply rates and the awarding of contracts) in place in France is highly inefficient in terms of the amount of electricity produced in GWh, compared to the country's potential.

Secondly, the French regulatory system presents various administrative obstacles, which obstruct and discourage renewable energy development projects. This trend seems to have worsened recently in the wind energy sector, with the introduction of a draft decree that subjects wind farms to regulations relating to machinery that is detrimental to the environment. This draft decree imposes on wind farms the measures specified by the Code de l'Environnement (L-511-1) on 'Installations Classées pour la Protection de l'Environnement' (ICPE).

Thirdly, France is seriously behind in terms of the national indicative target for 2010.

In light of this information and of the current EU legislative activity supporting the development of renewable energy:

1. What is the Commission's view of the French Government's recent conduct concerning the promotion of wind energy, considering the country's high potential (the second highest potential in Europe)?
2. What could the French Government do to improve its promotion of renewable energy development, and, in particular, of wind energy?
3. What measures could the EC put in place in order to support this process?

¹ OJ L 283, 27.10.2001, p. 33.