

PARLAMENT EWROPEW

2004



2009

Kumitat għall-Ambjent, is-Saħħa Pubblika u s-Sikurezza ta' l-Ikel

2006/2082(INI)

18.9.2006

OPINJONI

tal-Kumitat għall-Ambjent, is-Saħħa Pubblika u s-Sikurezza ta' l-Ikel

għall-Kumitat għall-Industrija, ir-Riċerka u l-Energija

dwar l-Istrateġija fuq il-Bijomassa u l-Bijofjuwils
(2006/2082(INI))

Rapporteur għal opinjoni: Liam Aylward

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SUGĠERIMENTI

Il-Kumitat għall-Ambjent, is-Sahħa Pubblika u s-Sikurezza ta' l-Ikel jistieden lill-Kumitat għall-Industrija, ir-Riċerka u l-Energija, bħala l-kumitat responsabbli, biex jinkorpora fil-mozzjoni għal riżoluzzjoni tiegħu, is-suggerimenti li ġejjin:

1. Jilqa' l-pjan ta' azzjoni dwar il-Bijomassa u l-Istrateġija ta' l-UE dwar il-Bijofjuwils; jenfasizza li hemm il-bżonn li jkunu żviluppati opportunitajiet effettivi f'sens ta' spejjeż sabiex jiżdied l-użu tal-bijomassa fl-applikazzjonijiet ta' l-enerġija biex ikunu miġġielda l-bidliet fil-klima u l-emmissjonijiet GHG; sabiex jikkontribwixxi fit-tnaqqis tad-dipendenza fuq ir-riżorsi taż-żejt li qed jispiċċaw; sabiex tkun promossa forniture ta' enerġija sostenibbli u bi prezz aċċessibbli u sabiex jitjiebu s-sigurtà tal-forniture u l-iżvilupp ekonomiku fl-UE;
2. Huwa konvint bis-sħiħ li l-produzzjoni u aktar żvilupp tal-bijomassa u tal-bijofjuwils se tipprovdi stimolu pożittiv lill-kompetittività u lis-suq tax-xogħol fl-Ewropa;
3. Jenfasizza li l-promozzjoni tal-bijomassa u l-bijofjuwils tagħti spinta liz-zoni rurali; jissottolinea l-fatt li, b'mod partikulari għall-intraprizi agrikoli u forestali ta' daqs żgħir u medju, l-użu ta' bijomassa għall-produzzjoni ta' l-enerġija se joffri prospetti flimkien ma dawk tal-produzzjoni ta' l-ikel;
4. Jikkunsidra li dan għandu jintlaħaq billi tingħata importanza lir-riċerka, lill-iżvilupp u lid-dimostrazzjoni ta' dawn l-applikazzjonijiet tal-bijomassa li ntwera li jagħtu tnaqqis ta' GHG u prestazzjoni fl-iffrankar ta' l-enerġija li huma ikkunsidrati l-akbar u l-aktar effettivi f'sens ta' spiża; u permezz tal-holqien ta' suq iddedikat sabiex titjeb il-profitabilità permezz ta' kampanji ta' informazzjoni; għandha tingħata attenzjoni partikulari lill-iżvilupp u lill-promozzjoni ta' soluzzjonijiet li jkunu dejjem ta' suċċess fejn il-produzzjoni tal-bijomassa tista' tkun mgħaqqda mar-ristorazzjoni ta' l-ambjent naturali, ma' l-agrikoltura b'kontribut estern baxx u ma' l-immaniġġjar ta' l-artijiet li jirispetta l-ambjent;
5. Jaqbel mal-Kummissjoni li l-użu tal-bijomassa f'applikazzjonijiet stazzjonarji bħall-enerġija, it-tishin u t-tkessiħ jista' jikkontribwixxi bl-aħjar mod għall-kisba ta' l-oġġettivi mistqarri ta' l-UE ta' tnaqqis fid-dipendenza fuq l-enerġija mill-fossili u tat-tnaqqis tal-holqien ta' GHG;
6. Jenfasizza li kwalunkwe kultivazzjoni ta' uċuħ ta' l-enerġija m'għandhomx jippreġudikaw il-kapaċitajiet tal-pajjiżi Ewropej u ta' dawk terzi fil-milja tal-prijoritajiet ambjentali bħall-waqfien mit-telf tal-bijodiversità, il-protezzjoni tal-foresti, il-prevenzjoni tad-degradazzjoni tal-ħamrija u l-ilħuq ta' status ekoloġiku tajjeb fil-provvista ta' l-ilma tagħha;
7. Jinsab imħasseb li hemm riskju ta' aktar domanda għall-orħos varjetajiet ta' ħxejjex disponibbli bħalissa fis-suq dinji, li jista' jwassal għal aktar zieda sostanzjali ta' deforestazzjoni tropikali u tindif ieħor ta' ekosistemi għanja f'termini ta' bijodiversità. Għaldaqstant jitlob li tkun introdotta ċertifikazzjoni ambjentali obligatorja għall-ikkultivazzjoni sostenibbli u għall-produzzjoni ta' bjoenerġija domestika u impurtata;

8. Jenfasizza li l-produzzjoni tal-bijoenerġija għandha dejjem tikkonforma ma' prattiċi agrikoli tajba, u m'għandiex taffettwa l-produzzjoni domestika ta' l-ikel fl-UE u fil-pajjiżi terzi; jikkunsidra li l-inċentivi għandhom ikunu limitati għal dawk l-applikazzjonijiet ta' bijomassa li jipprovdu l-akbar effiċjenza u benefiċċji ambjentali u klimatiċi;
9. Jistieden lill-Kummissjoni sabiex, qabel ma tistipula r-rekwiżiti tal-produzzjoni tal-bijofjuwils impurtati, teżamina jekk ir-rekwiżiti jikkonformawx mar-regoli ta' l-Organizzazzjoni Dinjija tal-Kummerċ (WTO);
10. Jirrimarka li l-użu ta' bijomassa tal-foresti m'għandux iwassal għal aktar pressjoni fuq il-foresti naturali u għandu dejjem ikun promoss b'modi kompatibbli mat-titjib tal-kwalità ekoloġika tal-foresti; jenfasizza li s-sostenibbiltà fil-forestrija ma tistax tkun limitata biss għal ħsad anqas minn dak li jerga jikber b'mod naturali filwaqt li tkun injorata l-biodiversità; jikkunsidra li l-produzzjoni tal-bijomassa m'għandiex twassal għat-tkabbir ta' pjantaġġuni ta' foresti artifiċjali bi spiża fuq l-ambjenti naturali ta' valur ambjentali għoli bħall-artijiet mistagħdra, l-għadajjar, l-isteppa u l-makkja Mediterranea;
11. Ihegġeg lill-Kummissjoni u lill-Istati Membri sabiex jagħtu prijorità lill-għazla u lill-promozzjoni ta' dawn il-bijokomponenti li jiżguraw il-bilanċ l-aktar effiċjenti ta' karbonju u li huma l-aktar effiċjenti f'sens ta' enerġija; jikkunsidra urġenti li l-Kummissjoni tagħmel studju dwar iċ-ċiklu tal-ħajja ta' l-enerġija tagħhom mill-bidu sa l-aħħar u anki tagħti prijorità lir-riċerka fil-qasam tal-bijoraffinerija, lill-bijofjuwils tat-tieni generazzjoni, lill-titjib tal-kapaċità ta' l-uċuħ tar-raba' mingħajr ma tnaqqas l-eżistenza kontinwa u l-iżvilupp ta' bijofjuwils ta' l-ewwel generazzjoni;
12. Jenfasizza l-bżonn ta' użu massimu tal-prodotti bijoenerġetiċi, kemm għall-produzzjoni ta' enerġija termali u elettirika, bil-għan li tinholoq effiċjenza ta' livell għoli, li tkun ta' benefiċċju għall-ambjent;
13. Ihegġeg lill-Kummissjoni sabiex tikkummenta dwar l-ispejjeż u l-benefiċċji mistennija marbuta ma' l-inkoraġġiment tal-produzzjoni tal-bijomassa fi u barra mill-UE;
14. Jikkunsidra li peress li hemm domanda kunfliġġenti għall-bijomassa mill-iskart, huwa importanti li l-bijoenerġija ma tintużax bħala skuża għall-promozzjoni ta' l-inċinerazzjoni ta' l-iskart;
15. Jikkunsidra li l-bijofjuwils m'għandhomx ikunu sostitut għall-istandards ta' effiċjenza tal-fjuwils fil-vetturi; jistenna li l-industrija tal-karozzi tagħmel l-għalmu tagħha sabiex tilhaq il-mira ta' 140g CO₂/km sa l-2008/9; ihegġeg lill-Kummissjoni sabiex issegwi l-progress u tiegħu aktar miżuri sabiex tilhaq il-għan ta' l-UE ta' 120g/km sa l-2010;
16. Jenfasizza li politika effettiva u ta' suċċess dwar l-enerġija li tinvolvi l-ftuħ tas-swieq nazzjonali ta' l-enerġija hija biss possibli b'koordinazzjoni Ewropea u internazzjonali; jilqa' s-sinjal tal-Kummissjoni għall-metodu kkoordinat. Jenfasizza l-bżonn tal-flessibilità sabiex l-Istati Membri jiżviluppaw il-politika tagħhom f'qafas ta' l-UE; Jistieden lill-Istati Membri sabiex jinkoraġġixxu l-iżvilupp tal-pjanijiet ta' azzjoni nazzjonali dwar il-bijomassa li jiriflettu l-medda kollha ta' l-għażliet għall-konverżjoni tal-bijomassa fl-enerġija, il-bini ta' kmamar tal-kaldaruni tal-bijomassa u li tingħata prijorità lill-investimenti relatati ma' l-enerġija skond il-fondi strutturali u ta' koeżjoni; jirrikonoxxi l-

importanza tal-proċedura ta' kuntratti pubbliċi u ta' l-eżenzjonijiet mit-taxxi għall-promozzjoni tal-bijomassa u tal-bijofjuwils;

17. Ihegġeg lill-Istati Membri sabiex ifittxu u jqabblu l-aħjar prattiki fil-promozzjoni tal-produzzjoni tal-bijomassa u l-bijofjuwils u l-użu permezz tal-metodu ta' koordinazzjoni miftuħ;
18. Jistiden lill-Kummissjoni sabiex tipproponi l-miżuri legiżlattivi u regulatorji neċessarji sabiex tintlaħaq il-mira miftiehma ta' l-UE ta' 25% riżorsi rinnovabbli sa l-2020 u jitneħħa kull ostaklu mhux ġustifikat fis-suq tal-bijomassa u tal-bijofjuwils mingħajr ma jikkomprometti l-konsiderazzjonijiet ta' l-ambjent u tas-saħħa fuq liema dawn il-miżuri kienu imsejsa;
19. Jemmen li l-programm ta' Energija Intelligenti għall-Ewropa se jgħin fl-appoġġ ta' proġetti lokali relatati ma' l-iffrankar ta' l-enerġija u l-użu xieraq tar-riżorsi naturali.

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

In order to increase the share of renewable energy in Europe and to reduce the oil-dependency the European Commission urges through the EU Biomass action plan (COM(2005)628) and the Communication on the EU Strategy for bio fuels (COM(2006)34), to improve the production and use of bio-energy in Europe and in third countries.

The main aim of the Action Plan on Biomass is to reach the target of 150 *mtoe* (*million tonnes of oil equivalent*) by 2010, more than double of the rate of 2003 (69 *mtoe*).

Development of this type of energy, mostly obtained by cereal, sugar, oil seed crops, waste oils, wood and wood residues will lead, following the action plan, to an increase of 5% of the share of renewable energy use within the EU to the 6% reduction of imported energy reliance and, would allow a CO₂ emissions reduction of 209 mt per year with important benefits for the air quality.

Use and production of biomass is expected to play a significant role in employment (250 000 people) mostly in rural areas as well as in energy price reduction.

The EU plan provides a wide set of measures (31 actions) to improve the development of biomass production and use mainly in three areas: transport, electricity and heating.

Member States have to play an important role in extending the use of biomass, by providing national biomass action plans as well as tax exemptions and public procurement procedures.

Concerning biofuels, the EU Strategy proposes to promote the production of a wide range of products derived from biological material (vegetal oils and animal fats) which is used in a liquid form especially as a replacement of fossil fuel, within the EU and in third countries (also as an alternative for developing countries affected by the sugar regime cuts). It provides a series of measures to improve cost-effective production and in particular second generation raw products for biofuels as well as financing research directed to optimise crop production. The Commission initiative is focused mainly on increasing the demand for biofuels by setting obligations requiring fuel supply companies to incorporate a given percentage of biofuels in the fuel they place on the market. National targets shares for Member states and stricter infringements procedures are inserted on the same purpose.

Your draftsman appreciates the approach taken by the Commission with regard to the aim and the measures of the bio-fuel Strategy and the Biomass Action Plan and in particular welcomes the opportunity for EU Member States to work together in demonstrating leadership to its constituents in a time of instability regarding energy supply and climate change.

A proper intervention is needed now, in order to provide Europe with an effective alternative and clean Energy policy including exploiting efficient bio-energy.

This would allow some important environmental benefits like GHG emissions cuts as well as the reduction of fossil fuel dependency. Another important aspect of this kind of energy generation is that its production can be obtained by small scale processors at urban and rural level. This important characteristic enables small communities in Europe and in third countries to produce their own energy by using natural resources provided by their own

territory.

These district scaled plants provide important savings on transport costs which are fairly unsustainable in some third developing countries and also, indirectly, on air pollution produced by means of transport.

As the Commission proposes, it is important to act on the demand side, increasing the need of bio-energy, by setting obligations and target rather than providing generalized subsidies to "energy crops".

To ensure more efficient production and use, research on second generation biofuels should be enhanced. These new technologies offer the possibility of using a wider range of agricultural and forest waste as raw material and could lower the pressure on land as well as the need for biofuel imports. Therefore incentives and tax exemptions should address these kinds of more cost-efficient productions.

Nevertheless, to take full advantage of bio-energy, the Commission and all relevant actors should take the following serious concerns into account:

First of all, we need to ensure that bio-energy production should not create environmental harm. This strategy and the derived increase of demand of bio-energy may entail some risks like overexploitation of grounds, e.g. by setting-aside good practices like rotation of crops; as well as the destruction of forest and ecosystem especially in third countries, mainly in tropical areas. Monocultures induced by external demands in developing countries may cause devastating forest clearance, with environmentally but also socially destructive effects like it happened for example, as outlined by many NGO's, in South East Asia for the palm oil industry.

Therefore, in order to ensure the sustainability of the production of bio-energy a mandatory environmental certification is needed which could be the appropriate tool to control the environmental impact of plantations. This may be the only way we can avoid the creation of solely a cost-oriented market which would encourage destructive and unsustainable practices mostly in third countries.

In addition, it should not be underestimated that environmental certification could guarantee EU production against an unfair competition, based on environmentally unsustainable production in third countries. The EU should improve its effort to make sure that also at international level and especially within the WTO such kind of certification should be considered admissible.

A second concern is unclear definition of biomass in the legislation of some Member States. Inorganic waste can be considered as such. It should be made clear that the simple by-product of waste incineration should not as such be considered as biomass.

Thirdly, as far as the impact of this strategy on agriculture and CAP reform is concerned, it should be stressed that some measures are taken in order to support crops destined to biodiesel feedstock: in particular by allowing them to be cultivated in non set-aside land as well as by providing energy crop payments as a special investment for energy crops grown on non set-aside land.

Nevertheless the agricultural production of biofuels should not affect soil fertility and therefore should always comply with good environmental practices and sustainable

cultivation methods.

Your draftsman welcomes the initiative of organizing the European Biomass Conference and Exhibition, the 15th edition of which will be held in Berlin in May 2007, as a unique opportunity to gather all actors involved in the development of a sustainable production of biomass. In this regard we would suggest that the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety should participate in this important workshop in order to be updated on the recent developments in this field.

Finally, the Renewable Energy Project is a project tailor-made for the European Union. Just as the Common Market and the Introduction of the Euro were necessary, but a pipedream for many at the time, Renewable Energy Common Policy is next. In a world of high oil prices, increasing dependency on a few external non-stable suppliers, new concerns relating to long-term availability of fossil fuels and the urgency of new greenhouse gas emissions, this can no longer be a pipedream but an urgent reality. We need long-term, well thought through sustainable policy on Renewable Energy and we need to provide leadership now.

PROĊEDURA

Titolu	Strategija dwar il-bijomassa u l-bijofjuwils
Proċedura numru	2006/2082(INI)
Kumitat responsabbli	ITRE
Opinjoni moghtija minn Data tat-thabbir fis-seduta plenarja	ENVI 6.4.2006
Koperazzjoni aktar mill-qrib - data tat-thabbir fis-seduta plenarja	
Rapporteur ghal opinjoni Data tal-hatra	Liam Aylward 25.4.2006
Rapporteur ghal opinjoni preċedenti	
Eżami fil-kumitat	12.7.2006
Data ta' l-adozzjoni	13.9.2006
Riżultat tal-votazzjoni finali	+: 49 -: 1 0: 0
Membri preżenti għall-votazzjoni finali	Adamos Adamou, Georgs Andrejevs, Liam Aylward, Irena Belohorská, John Bowis, Frieda Brepoels, Martin Callanan, Dorette Corbey, Chris Davies, Avril Doyle, Mojca Drčar Murko, Edite Estrela, Anne Ferreira, Matthias Groote, Françoise Grossetête, Gyula Hegyi, Caroline Jackson, Dan Jørgensen, Christa Kläß, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Holger Kraemer, Urszula Krupa, Aldis Kušķis, Marie-Noëlle Lienemann, Peter Liese, Jules Maaten, Linda McAvan, Marios Matsakis, Riitta Myller, Péter Olajos, Miroslav Ouzký, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Vittorio Prodi, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Guido Sacconi, Richard Seeber, Kathy Sinnott, Jonas Sjöstedt, Bogusław Sonik, María Sornosa Martínez, Antonios Trakatellis, Thomas Ulmer, Anja Weisgerber, Anders Wijkman
Sostitut(i) preżenti għall-votazzjoni finali	Bairbre de Brún, Hélène Goudin, Rebecca Harms, Jutta D. Haug, Miroslav Mikolášik, Bart Staes, Claude Turmes, Thomas Wise
Sostitut(i) skond l-Artikolu 178(2) preżenti għall-votazzjoni finali	
Kummenti (informazzjoni disponibbli b'lingwa wahda biss)	...