

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2007/2106(INI)

11.10.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on an Action Plan for Energy Efficiency: Realising the Potential
(2007/2106(INI))

Draftswoman: Evangelia Tzampazi

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety 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. Welcomes the Commission communication concerning the 'Action Plan for Energy Efficiency: Realising the Potential' and supports the envisaged priority actions, whilst calling for their prompt implementation.
2. Welcomes the binding commitment given at the Council summit in the spring of 2007 to achieve a 20% reduction in energy consumption by 2020, which will also contribute to achieving a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, as a unilateral commitment on the part of the European Union, which may be raised to 30% in coordination with similar commitments made by the other industrialised countries; stresses also the need for interim reduction objectives subdivided by energy sector;
3. Welcomes the Commission initiative to reach framework agreements with key external trading partner countries and international organisations and calls for such agreements to be concluded with countries possessing highly developed technologies in the area of efficient energy transformation, distribution and use;
4. Stresses that the prompt implementation and monitoring of existing Community energy efficiency legislation (e.g. Directive 2002/91/EC on the energy performance of buildings, Directive 92/75/EC on labelling, Directive 2005/32/EC on Ecodesign and Directive 2006/32/EC on energy end-use efficiency and energy services) would go halfway towards achieving the objective; calls on the Member States to make rational use of, enforce and improve National Energy Efficiency Action Plans,+ and calls on the Commission to ascertain the correct transposition and implementation, by the specified deadlines, of the directives already adopted;
5. Takes the view that the greatest energy savings can be achieved in the construction and transport sectors, placing the emphasis on the possibilities for improvements in urban transport and public buildings; accordingly calls for priority actions in these areas; calls also for a review of the provisions of the buildings directive, so as to extend its scope to include EU minimum efficiency standards; calls, furthermore, on the Member States to promote public transport as well as rail, sea and inland waterway transport;
6. Calls on the Commission to require an increase in energy efficiency not just in the case of new constructions but also to stipulate energy efficiency as an obligatory criterion for the renovation of old buildings, and to demand that a significant proportion of energy requirements be met from renewable energy sources; to this end calls on the Commission to provide particular support, in the form of financial incentives, to building renovations which are carried out in order to comply with energy efficiency criteria;
7. Recognises the need for renovation of multi family residential buildings/social housing as an acute problem affecting a considerable number of EU citizens, in particular in the new Member States; thus, when revising the future EU Structural Funds, calls for an increase in the funding that could be used to improve energy efficiency of those buildings in the

new Member States.

8. Points out that transport and distribution are among the sources of energy losses and power cuts and stresses the role that microgeneration and decentralised and diversified generation might play in guaranteeing supply security and reducing losses; considers that incentives should be created aimed at improving infrastructure with a view to reducing transmission and distribution losses.
9. Stresses that the role of market-based tools (for example 'white' certificates) and financial incentives (for instance the encouragement of green taxation policy) for businesses to achieve energy efficiency objectives and enhancement of European competitiveness are not in themselves enough, and that therefore ad hoc public and Community funding should be activated, in order to make it possible to channel resources more effectively into research, technological innovation and energy efficiency, on the basis of the 'polluter pays' principle;
10. Encourages the Member States to review their tax policies in relation to energy efficiency and, where this is considered efficient, to make use of tax incentives whilst at the same time taking measures to deal with possible negative social repercussions.
11. Stresses the role that services such as energy audits might play in reducing waste and promoting the improved exploitation of each building's energy potential; urges the Member States to be the first to set an example, not only in administrative buildings but also in other public buildings such as schools, universities and hospitals.
12. Stresses the need to encourage research, knowledge transfer and eco-innovation in developing energy effective technologies by encouraging investment and exchanges of best practices and technology transfer, which could stimulate economic growth, increase employment levels, provide a comparative advantage for the European economy, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy objectives; underlines the role of the Seventh Research Framework Programme and other Community financial instruments.
13. Calls on the Commission to establish minimum energy efficiency standards under the Ecodesign directive; calls for a review of the labelling directive in order to encompass new products and greater coherence between the two directives so as to increase consumer awareness and make it easier for consumers to make informed choices thanks to a clear and comprehensive system.
14. Stresses the need to promote the Action Plan for Energy Efficiency in educational and information campaigns, with a view to placing consumers in a better position to make informed decisions when purchasing consumer goods and subsequently to use them wisely, in accordance with the sustainable development principle.
15. Stresses the fundamental role of the public authorities in encouraging energy efficiency and advocates inclusion of energy efficiency requirements among the rules governing public procurement.
16. Encourages the Commission to take the lead in a global agreement on energy efficiency; calls on the Commission to incorporate energy efficiency in the EU's bilateral agreements

with third countries.

17. Stresses the need for the energy efficiency policy to be implemented at all levels of government.
18. Calls on the Commission to extend the scope of existing financial incentives to developments which enable energy produced from renewable sources to be fed into existing networks set up for fossil fuel energy; improving existing networks would significantly increase the efficiency of energy production from renewable sources in a shorter time and for less cost, at the same time helping to increase security of supply as a result of such timely improvements.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	9.10.2007
Result of final vote	+ : 35 - : 0 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Adamos Adamou, Margrete Auken, Pilar Ayuso, Johannes Blokland, John Bowis, Frieda Brepoels, Hiltrud Breyer, Dorette Corbey, Jill Evans, Anne Ferreira, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Satu Hassi, Jens Holm, Dan Jørgensen, Christa Kläß, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Urszula Krupa, Peter Liese, Jules Maaten, Linda McAvan, Miroslav Ouzký, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Vittorio Prodi, Guido Sacconi, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Karin Scheele, Carl Schlyter, Richard Seeber, María Sornosa Martínez, Antonios Trakatellis, Evangelia Tzampazi, Anja Weisgerber
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Lambert van Nistelrooij
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Vincenzo Aita, Manuel Medina Ortega