



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2011/0172(COD)

21.12.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council
on energy efficiency and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC
(COM(2011)0370 – C7-0168/2011 – 2011/0172(COD))

Rapporteur: Edite Estrela

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Energy efficiency is one of the key features of the flagship initiative “A resource-efficient Europe” announced in the Europe 2020 strategy. As outlined in the Commission Communication “A Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050”, energy efficiency is one of the aspects of low carbon economy that can help to create new jobs both in the short and the medium-term, through increased education, training, programmes to foster acceptability of new technologies, R&D and entrepreneurship.

This proposal for a Directive underlines that shifting to a more energy-efficient economy will also improve the competitiveness of industry in the Union, boosting economic growth and creating high quality jobs in several sectors related to energy efficiency. In order to remove non regulatory barriers to energy efficiency, measures such as the provision of education, training and specific information and technical assistance on energy efficiency are also proposed. From the perspective of the draftsman, this proposal for a Directive may represent an opportunity to underline the importance of women's access to specialized training in order to reach the targets of energy efficiency and create the possibility for women to be employed in these future new jobs in the sectors related to energy efficiency.

Another aspect which would be underlined by this opinion is that Member States should also promote a social objective within the measures to achieve their energy efficiency targets, by including measures to be implemented in households affected by energy poverty or in social housing. Specific measures and incentives for vulnerable social groups should be provided, to help these households to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes and to reduce the costs of energy. These measures should be tailored to take into account also the gender perspective.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a directive Recital 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3a) In 2010 the Commission adopted a strategy for promoting equality between women and men in Europe aiming in particular to make better use of women's

potential, thereby contributing to the EU's overall economic and social goals. The under-representation of women in the energy sector and the lack of gender specific approaches and demands can be observed on national, European and international level; consequently, and in order to implement the EU gender equality strategy at national level, Member States are required to integrate this strategy in the sense of screening of all politics to their different impacts on women and men including research on energy and the sustainable production and consumption of energy in close dialogue with the energy related industry, institutions, organisations and decision makers.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a directive Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) A number of municipalities and other public bodies in the Member States have already put into place integrated approaches to energy saving and energy supply, for example via sustainable energy action plans, such as those developed under the Covenant of Mayors initiative, and integrated urban approaches which go beyond individual interventions in buildings or transport modes. Member States should encourage municipalities and other public bodies to adopt integrated and sustainable energy efficiency plans with clear objectives, to involve citizens in their development and implementation and to adequately inform them about their content and progress in achieving objectives. Such plans can yield considerable energy savings, especially if they are implemented by energy management systems that allow the concerned public bodies to better

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manage their energy consumption. Exchange of experience between cities, towns and other public bodies should be encouraged with respect to the more innovative experiences.

dialogue with local public, commercial and social stakeholders, including social partners. Member States should encourage municipalities and other public bodies to adopt integrated and sustainable energy efficiency plans with clear objectives, which also include specific measures to address energy poverty and to promote energy efficiency for vulnerable social groups, including from a gender perspective, to involve local stakeholders, including social partners and citizens in their development and implementation to provide education and training programmes to workers and entrepreneurs to help them develop the required skills, and to adequately inform them and citizens about their content and progress in achieving objectives. Such plans can yield considerable energy savings, especially if they are implemented by energy management systems that allow the concerned public bodies to better manage their energy consumption. Exchange of experience between cities, towns and other public bodies as well as with and between social partners should be encouraged with respect to the more innovative experiences.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a directive Recital 16 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16a) Most energy savings in housing are made by women. It is important to promote women's responsibility and training and to create technical and environmental energy experts who can control and follow the energy efficiency of the private building management.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a directive Recital 18

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) An assessment of the possibility of establishing a "white certificate" scheme at Union level has shown that, in the current situation, such a system would create excessive administrative costs and that there is a risk that energy savings would be concentrated in a number of Member States and not introduced across the Union. The latter objective can better be achieved, at least at this stage, by means of national energy efficiency obligation schemes or other alternative measures that achieve the same amount of energy savings. The Commission should however define, by a delegated act, the conditions under which a Member State could in future recognise the energy savings achieved in another Member State. It is appropriate for the level of ambition of such schemes to be established in a common framework at Union level while providing significant flexibility to Member States to take full account of the national organisation of market actors, the specific context of the energy sector and final customers' habits. The common framework should give energy utilities the option of offering energy services to all final customers, not only to those to whom they sell energy. This increases competition in the energy market because energy utilities can differentiate their product by providing complementary energy services. The common framework should allow Member States to include requirements in their national scheme that pursue a social aim, notably in order to ensure that vulnerable **customers** have access to the benefits of higher energy efficiency. It should also allow Member States to exempt small companies from the energy efficiency

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obligation. The Commission Communication “Small Business Act” sets out principles that should be taken into account by Member States that decide to abstain from applying this possibility.

access to the benefits of higher energy efficiency ***and that the impact of the costs of energy efficiency measures on end consumers' energy bills is mitigated.*** It should also allow Member States to exempt small companies from the energy efficiency obligation. The Commission Communication “Small Business Act” sets out principles that should be taken into account by Member States that decide to abstain from applying this possibility.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a directive Recital 30

Text proposed by the Commission

(30) A sufficient number of reliable professionals competent in the field of energy efficiency should be available to ensure the effective and timely implementation of this Directive, for instance as regards compliance with the requirements on energy audits and implementation of energy efficiency obligation schemes. Member States should therefore put in place certification schemes for the providers of energy services, energy audits and other energy efficiency improvement measures.

Amendment

(30) A sufficient number of reliable professionals competent in the field of energy efficiency should be available to ensure the effective and timely implementation of this Directive, ***while ensuring equal participation of both women and men professionals,*** for instance as regards compliance with the requirements on energy audits and implementation of energy efficiency obligation schemes. Member States should therefore put in place certification schemes for the providers of energy services, energy audits and other energy efficiency improvement measures.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a directive Recital 30 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(30a) Today's children are tomorrow's workers, engineers, architects, entrepreneurs and energy users. The decisions they take will influence the way

in which society produces and uses energy in the future. Energy education is therefore important so that future generations can be instructed in how to contribute to efficient energy consumption through their lifestyle and personal behaviour.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a directive Recital 33 a new

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(33a) Appropriate resources should be provided to support specific education, training and information programmes that take into account also the gender perspective. Member States should be encouraged to adapt their vocational education and training curricula to reflect the new qualification needs, while ensuring equal access and participation to these training schemes and specific guidance and information for both women and men.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a directive Article 4 - paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1) Without prejudice to Article 7 of Directive 2010/31/EU, Member States shall ensure that as from 1 January 2014, 3% of the total floor area owned by their public bodies is renovated each year to meet at least the minimum energy performance requirements set by the Member State concerned in application of Article 4 of Directive 2010/31/EU. The 3% rate shall be calculated on the total floor area of buildings *with a total useful floor*

(1) Without prejudice to Article 7 of Directive 2010/31/EU, Member States shall ensure that as from 1 January 2014, 3% of the total floor area owned by their public bodies is renovated each year to meet at least the minimum energy performance requirements set by the Member State concerned in application of Article 4 of Directive 2010/31/EU. The 3% rate shall be calculated on the total floor area of buildings owned by the public

area over 250 m² owned by the public bodies of the Member State concerned, that, on 1 January of each year, does not meet the national minimum energy performance requirements set in application of Article 4 of Directive 2010/31/EU.

bodies of the Member State concerned, **including social housing**, that, on 1 January of each year, does not meet the national minimum energy performance requirements set in application of Article 4 of Directive 2010/31/EU.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a directive Article 4 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The participatory processes to improve energy efficiency shall be designed to enable everyone to take part in the energy change. Women in particular need to be integrated into these processes, since they are the main private decision makers and users of efficient energy in private households, and through their daily family interaction they lay the foundations for conscious and sustainable energy use by family members.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a directive Article 4 - paragraph 4 - point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) adopt an energy efficiency plan, freestanding or as part of a broader climate or environmental plan, containing specific energy saving objectives, with a view to continuously improving the body's energy efficiency;

(a) adopt an ***integrated and sustainable*** energy efficiency plan, freestanding or as part of a broader climate or environmental plan, containing specific energy saving objectives ***and also specific measures to address energy poverty*** with a view to continuously improving the body's energy ***savings and*** efficiency;

Amendment 11

Proposal for a directive

Article 6 - paragraph 4 a new

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) Member States shall include requirements with a social aim in the saving obligations they impose, including by requiring measures to be implemented in households affected by energy poverty or in social housing, taking into account the needs of vulnerable social groups and providing appropriate incentives to upgrade the energy efficiency of their households.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a directive

Article 6 - paragraph 5 - point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) include requirements with a social aim in the saving obligations they impose, including by requiring measures to be implemented in households affected by energy poverty or in social housing;

deleted

Amendment 13

Proposal for a directive

Article 6 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. Member States are called on to incorporate women's skills in the area of 'sustainable housekeeping'. They are in a position to provide education and advice on the spot. Education would include, for example, planned shopping to avoid purchasing inappropriate quantities, the conscious use of food to avoid food waste,

paying attention to energy efficiency classes when purchasing new household appliances, appropriate heating and ventilation and the energy-conscious use of household appliances.

Amendment 14

Proposal for a directive Article 6 – paragraph 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

7a. Member States contribute inter alia through adequate financing of training programmes, to ensuring that information and consultation rights explicitly extend to include energy efficiency.

Amendment 15

Proposal for a directive Article 6 – paragraph 10 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

10a. The Commission contributes inter alia through inclusion of a chapter dedicated to energy efficiency in training programmes for social partners and through adequate financing of these programmes, to ensuring that the remit of European social dialogue bodies (European Works' Councils, European sectoral social dialogue committees, European works' councils employment-skills) is extended to include energy efficiency.

Amendment 16

Proposal for a directive

Article 15 - paragraph 1 - subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

These measures to remove barriers may include providing incentives, repealing or amending legal or regulatory provisions, or adopting guidelines and interpretative communications. These measures may be combined with the provision of education, training and specific information and technical assistance on energy efficiency.

Amendment

These measures to remove barriers may include providing incentives, repealing or amending legal or regulatory provisions, or adopting guidelines and interpretative communications. These measures may be combined with the provision of education, training and specific information and technical assistance on energy efficiency ***that take into account also the gender perspective.***

Amendment 17

Proposal for a directive

Article 15 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Member States are called upon to take appropriate measures to promote energy education in families, schools and society, with particular stress on how each individual can contribute to more efficient, sustainable energy use through their personal behaviour.

PROCEDURE

Title	Energy efficiency, repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC						
References	COM(2011)0370 – C7-0168/2011 – 2011/0172(COD)						
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	ITRE 7.7.2011						
Committee(s) asked for opinion(s) Date announced in plenary	FEMM 17.11.2011						
Rapporteur(s) Date appointed	Edite Estrela 3.10.2011						
Date adopted	20.12.2011						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>25</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	+:	25	–:	0	0:	4
+:	25						
–:	0						
0:	4						
Members present for the final vote	Regina Bastos, Edit Bauer, Andrea Češková, Marije Cornelissen, Silvia Costa, Tadeusz Cymański, Edite Estrela, Iratxe García Pérez, Zita Gurmai, Mikael Gustafsson, Mary Honeyball, Livia Járóka, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Barbara Matera, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Siiri Oviir, Antonyia Parvanova, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Nicole Sinclaire, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska, Marc Tarabella, Britta Thomsen, Marina Yannakoudakis						
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Kent Johansson, Christa Kläß, Mariya Nedelcheva, Angelika Werthmann						