

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on International Trade

2007/2000(INI)

2.3.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

towards a common European foreign policy on energy
(2007/2000(INI))

Draftsman: Jean-Pierre Audy

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Underlines the important role of the international trade system and trade agreements in providing a stable regulatory framework to generate the appropriate environment for achieving, in particular, renewable and sustainable energy solutions;
2. Encourages cross-investment operations, the reciprocal opening up of markets, compliance with competition rules and strategic visions with regard to long-term contracts;
3. Supports the principle of widening the energy community so as to create a pan-European energy community operating with transparent market economy rules;
4. Calls on the Commission to promote fair competition at international level by taking action within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in support of specific rules on the transparency of the energy market and, in particular, on trade-distorting measures;
5. Recommends that the Commission evaluate, within the WTO, the possibility of negotiating plurilateral agreements for specific energy markets, such as biofuels, and that it report back to the European Parliament as soon as possible;
6. Considers that it is necessary to include a section dealing with energy in all new EU trade agreements;
7. Calls on the Commission to organise high-level meetings between the main importing countries and those supplying the EU, starting with oil and gas;
8. Expects the world-wide demand for scientific research in the field of energy to increase as a result of increased energy prices; regards European manufacturers, in view of the technological lead they have taken, as particularly well-placed to meet that demand; urges the Commission, therefore, to implement, in conjunction with the manufacturers and the Member States, measures to support scientific research in the field of energy and, in particular, to support research into the wider use of renewable sources and hydrogen, and to support ITER (the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor), a project which involves the US, Japan, Russia, China, India and Korea in addition to the EU;
9. Emphasises that the main priority of the EU's external energy policy must be reduced dependence on fossil fuels from a few big suppliers and that a long-term strategy to diversify its energy sources must be formulated;
10. Believes that a global system for capping and trading CO₂ emission permits under the Kyoto Protocol would help to reduce the growth in worldwide energy demand; stresses that such a system should draw on the UN-endorsed principle of 'contraction and convergence', whereby, over time, all countries converge at equal global per capita

emission shares; moreover, also believes that reducing emissions from ships and aircraft will contribute to the abovementioned objective;

11. Calls on the Commission to take more account of the links between energy policy and climate in its trade policy;
12. Stresses the need to maintain and promote the use of all locally available clean resources, in particular by converting part of European agricultural production to promote the use of sustainable biomass and the development of second-generation biofuels, in order to help reduce dependence on imports, as well as by expanding hydroelectric plants, and welcomes the Commission's recent proposal to set a binding minimum target for biofuels of 10% of vehicle fuel by 2020;
13. Emphasises the importance for the EU of further developing a single European voice at international level in support of its energy policy objectives.

PROCEDURE

Title	Towards a common European foreign policy on energy	
Procedure number	2007/2000(INI)	
Committee responsible	AFET	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	INTA 18.1.2007	
Draftsman Date appointed	Jean-Pierre Audy 18.12.2006	
Discussed in committee	23.1.2007	27.2.2007
Date adopted	27.2.2007	
Result of final vote	+: 18 -: 1 0: 2	
Members present for the final vote	Françoise Castex, Christofer Fjellner, Béla Glattfelder, Ignasi Guardans Cambó, Eduard Raul Hellvig, Jacky Henin, Sajjad Karim, Ģirts Valdis Kristovskis, Marusya Ivanova Lyubcheva, Albert Jan Maat, Vural Öger, Georgios Papastamkos, Robert Sturdy, Gianluca Susta, Zbigniew Zaleski	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Panagiotis Beglitis, Elisa Ferreira, Jens Holm, Javier Moreno Sánchez, Carl Schlyter	