



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

---

*Committee on International Trade*

---

**2012/2259(INI)**

11.3.2013

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on current challenges and opportunities for renewable energy in the European  
internal energy market  
(2012/2259(INI))

Rapporteur: Yannick Jadot

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade 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. Stresses that the EU's policy on renewable energy has benefited its economy and has contributed to the creation of more than 500 000 domestic jobs<sup>1</sup>; encourages the Commission to continue pursuing an ambitious but also structured and forward-looking approach to renewables which includes support mechanisms that are financed on a sustainable basis and are adaptable and suitable to the maturity of technologies, measures to boost technological innovation, integration of renewables in the energy market and in the energy mix, the transmission capacity needed, and the identification of new strategic areas; stresses that this strategy should also encourage trade facilitation in order to support the efforts of developing countries in this particular field and in order to allow for the use of renewables as trade commodities;
2. Stresses that the EU's support for the development of renewable energy should take place in the framework of an ambitious common industrial policy, which covers everything from research and development to financing, given that this is necessary to secure EU's leadership in this sector;
3. Notes that the leadership of the EU in renewable energy technology is currently being eroded, inter alia because of unfair trade practices on the part of some emerging economies; urges the Commission, therefore, to make strategic, swift and efficient use of trade defence instruments and of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism in order to counter such illegal practices, in close collaboration with the companies affected by them;
4. Urges the Commission also to actively monitor the use of unjustified non-tariff barriers (NTBs), subsidies and dumping measures by the EU's trade partners in this area;
5. Recalls the Commission's support for the local dimension of renewable energy production; concurs with the Commission that decentralised energy production has many benefits, including the utilisation of local energy sources while fostering community development and cohesion by providing income sources and creating jobs locally while reducing the dependency of certain regions of the EU on third countries' energy providers; stresses that if renewable energy is to fully unfold its potential, it is important to provide incentives for the use of local resources to the extent that is economically feasible, with public procurement playing an important role in this respect where necessary;
6. Stresses that trade has an important role in making sure that renewable energy is produced and financed sustainably; recalls that imported bioenergy and agrofuels should comply with EU sustainability criteria and that the latter need to be clearly defined; to this end, encourages the Commission to introduce indirect land use as an additional criterion; recommends that trade agreements should contain provisions to address the issues of deforestation and forest degradation and should incentivise the sound management of land

---

<sup>1</sup> Eurostat, 2010

and water resources; encourages the Commission to continue negotiating voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs) with relevant third countries forbidding illegal logging;

7. Recalls that the EU's trade deficit arising from fossil fuel imports is set to increase in the coming years, and that dependence on fossil fuel imports entails ever-growing political, economic and environmental risks; underlines in this respect the role domestic renewable energy sources play in terms of security of supply and reinstalling a positive trade balance with oil and gas exporter countries, and therefore stresses that these should play a larger role in achieving the EU's energy security;
8. Welcomes the pillar on international cooperation; recognises the potential represented by neighbourhood countries and notably the southern Mediterranean countries in terms of production of renewable energy; believes that the EU's proposed DCFTAs could be a useful means of integrating the countries of this region into the Union's energy market and of investing in their technological development in a way that is beneficial to the sustainability of their economies, on a basis of genuine cooperation;
9. Maintains that the Member States, working together with the Commission, must use energy and trade agreements with non-member countries to consolidate European policy goals for renewable energy development;
10. Believes that cooperation mechanisms and trade with third countries should be explored to make better use of the potential of renewables, and that this will involve an evaluation of the infrastructure requirements for the secure and efficient operation of national electricity systems, as well as of the costs for transit countries;
11. Maintains that the goal of closer energy cooperation, both within the EU and with neighbouring countries, needs to go hand in hand with the necessary energy infrastructure development;
12. Points out that functioning fair and free trade can help to ensure that renewable energy sources and energy efficiency technologies will be adopted more rapidly and at lower cost;
13. Calls on the Commission to take note of the WTO's Information Technology Agreement and to investigate the possibilities for the initiation of an Environmental Technology Free Trade Agreement, which would establish tariff-free trade in environmental technology products;
14. Recalls the G20 agreement to phase out fossil fuel subsidies; calls on the Commission swiftly to put forward proposals for a timetable to phase out all fossil fuel subsidies granted by institutions such as export credit agencies that receive public support from the EU or from Member States;
15. Encourages the Commission to continue its efforts to reach an agreement on a post-Kyoto protocol which will establish a more level international playing field for European manufacturing industry;

16. Calls on the EU institutions and the authorities of the Member States to take account of the negative effects of a further deindustrialisation of the EU and the relocation of CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive production to third countries when drafting future legislation, in particular regarding the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	21.2.2013
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 24 -: 1 0: 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Nora Berra, David Campbell Bannerman, Daniel Caspary, María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, George Sabin Cutaş, Marielle de Sarnez, Christofer Fjellner, Yannick Jadot, Metin Kazak, Franziska Keller, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Vital Moreira, Paul Murphy, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Helmut Scholz, Peter Šťastný, Robert Sturdy, Henri Weber, Paweł Zalewski
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Josefa Andrés Barea, Catherine Bearder, Syed Kamall, Jörg Leichtfried, Tokia Saïfi
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Paul Rübig