



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2009/2215(INI)

8.4.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on Union for the Mediterranean
(2009/2215(INI))

Rapporteur: Niki Tzavela

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

Introduction

1. Wishes the Union for the Mediterranean Summit on 7 and 8 June 2010 in Barcelona to show the EU's continuing support for closer cooperation with its Southern Mediterranean partners on the optimisation of national support schemes; the development of common positions on regulatory issues in the energy field, with the help of the Association of Mediterranean Regulators for Electricity and Gas (MEDREG) and the Euro-Mashreq Gas Centre; trans-Mediterranean cooperation on renewable energy; and the exchange of best practices and technological progress through initiatives and partnerships such as the Barcelona Process, the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Euro-Maghreb Energy Community Treaty and the MED-ENEC programme on energy efficiency in the construction sector;

Infrastructure and supply

2. Supports the promotion of trans-Euro-Mediterranean interconnections in the electricity, gas and oil sectors in order to improve energy supply security; emphasises the importance of completing the Mediterranean electricity loop and supports the development of a southern gas corridor; encourages the use of reverse flows where it is justified in terms of security, cost-effectiveness and viability;

Solar and wind energy

3. Underlines the fact that the Mediterranean has enormous, and largely untapped, potential in the field of renewable energies such as solar energy, wind energy and hydropower;
4. Calls for strong support for the Mediterranean Solar Plan (MSP) as it aims to increase the use of solar energy and other renewable energy sources for power generation to an ambitious target of 20 GW of additional installed capacity by 2020 and to bring about energy savings of 20% around the Mediterranean;
5. Emphasises the further significance of the MSP for the Southern Mediterranean countries' economic development, in terms of providing additional domestic electricity capacity, reinforcing grid infrastructures and underpinning the creation of a new industrial sector of solar components manufacturing (with associated jobs), and calls, in this regard, for a practical action plan to be produced on the basis of the strategy paper;
6. Notes that a number of industrial initiatives in the Mediterranean region (such as DESERTEC) have the potential to impact positively on energy security, the environment, sustainable development and the growth of energy networks, and calls for practical steps to be taken towards their realisation; emphasises, at the same time, that such projects

should generate direct added value for the local societies in which they are based by activating local stakeholders, facilitating technology transfer and enabling the development of efficient networks and infrastructures that also lend themselves to local use, thus boosting the local economy, contributing to social cohesion and supporting further development in the regions concerned;

7. Underlines the importance of projects in the renewable energy sector that not only contribute to economic development in UfM member countries, especially those on the southern shores of the Mediterranean, but also constitute a structural element of cooperation within the UfM;

Industrial cooperation

8. Calls for the setting up of a regulatory and institutional framework based on transparency and predictability across the Euro-Mediterranean region in order to encourage industry, trade and research and development, with the aim of achieving coherent economic growth;
9. Underlines the importance of establishing industrial policies to improve economies of scale, while supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and strengthening high-technology sectors; calls on the UfM member countries and institutions to play an active role in supporting SMEs, with particular emphasis on efficient financial services and technical and administrative assistance, thereby creating a strong entrepreneurial base, especially in sectors that contribute to economic growth in the Mediterranean countries;
10. Highlights the importance of the current negotiations on the Europe-Mediterranean Free Trade Area and encourages the UfM member countries to work on harmonising their positions in the context of WTO negotiations;

Scientific and technological cooperation and training

11. Underlines the importance of research and development as part of a recovery and competitiveness strategy for the southern-shore Mediterranean countries and calls for scientific and technological cooperation between the states of the Mediterranean region to be stepped up and better coordinated; supports the European Mediterranean University initiative and the creation of a 'Euro-Mediterranean Area of Higher Education and Research', as envisaged in the Catania Declaration of 29 January 2006;
12. Underlines the need to promote exchanges of best practice and researcher mobility and calls for joint programming of research in various fields – including marine research and civil protection research (e.g. with regard to natural disasters) as well as research into health, social and environmental issues – with the involvement of local stakeholders and civil society; expresses support for the idea of establishing and developing a Euro-Mediterranean institute for forest fires;
13. Calls for further promotion of, and support for, the 'Solar for Peace' initiative within the

framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Market Integration Project (MED-EMIP);

14. Recommends that the countries participating in the Euro-Mediterranean process join the 'smart cities' initiative envisaged under the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan;

LNG

15. Stresses that the 20-20-20 climate objectives will affect gas demand significantly, therefore the creation of an LNG action plan for the UfM member countries would improve diversity and security of supply, especially for countries relying on sole suppliers;
16. Stresses the importance of progress in LNG technology and investments in LNG vessel transportation capacity and LNG re-gasification terminals; points out that, alongside infrastructure development, maritime security is also a necessity;

ICT

17. Recommends that the BB-MED action plan (satellite and broadband technology) be supported.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	7.4.2010
Result of final vote	+: 44 -: 0 0: 4
Members present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Zigmantas Balčytis, Jan Březina, Maria Da Graça Carvalho, Giles Chichester, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Lena Ek, Ioan Enciu, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, Fiona Hall, Jacky Hénin, Edit Herczog, Sajjad Karim, Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, Bogdan Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, Marisa Matias, Judith A. Merkies, Jaroslav Paška, Aldo Patriciello, Miloslav Ransdorf, Herbert Reul, Michèle Rivasi, Jens Rohde, Paul Rübig, Amalia Sartori, Francisco Sosa Wagner, Konrad Szymański, Patrizia Toia, Evžen Tošenovský, Ioannis A. Tsoukalas, Claude Turmes, Niki Tzavela, Vladimir Urutchev, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Alejo Vidal-Quadras
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Lara Comi, António Fernando Correia De Campos, Rachida Dati, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Yannick Jadot, Oriol Junqueras Vies, Bernd Lange, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Ivari Padar, Mario Pirillo, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Lambert van Nistelrooij