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Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2010/2087(INI)

11.11.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on an EU Strategy for the Black Sea
(2010/2087(INI))

Rapporteur: Silvia-Adriana Țicău

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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:

1. Recognises that the Black Sea Region (BSR) is of geostrategic importance, in particular for energy security and the diversification of EU energy sources and of energy supply routes, given its proximity to the Caspian Sea, the Middle East and Central Asia, and that, following the accession of Romania and Bulgaria, the EU should become an important player in interactional relations in this region, but acknowledges that more needs to be done;
2. Calls on the Commission to integrate the environmental dimension into its strategy for the BSR and in particular to contribute to the restoration of the environment following the toxic waste pollution in the rivers which flow into the Black Sea, such as the recent incident in the Danube basin;
3. Considers that the Energy Infrastructure Package shortly to be introduced by the Commission must place great emphasis on the proposed energy projects in the BSR; draws attention to the fact that the transit routes which cut across the states in the region can significantly improve the EU's security of supply;
4. Emphasises the importance of Member States taking a common approach towards the BSR, with a view to achieving the EU's long-term objective of security of energy supply and stability in its neighbourhood;
5. Emphasises the importance of clearly defining the operational methods and means for the implementation of a Black Sea Strategy, including processes, projects, monitoring system and funding, especially with a view to clarifying how it will be coordinated with the Eastern Partnership;
6. Draws attention to the longstanding EU-Russia strategic partnership and the two countries' common interest in enhancing bilateral trade and investment, in facilitating and liberalising trade in the global economy and in strengthening and developing competition, including in the BSR;
7. Bearing in mind the construction of new gas pipelines and their interconnections, of new electricity grids and their interconnections, of new LNG terminals and infrastructures and of new power plants (fossil fuel generation, renewable energies and nuclear projects), emphasises that transparent and fair market rules and conditions governing energy transit and trade which guarantee long-term predictability for investments should be established; stresses that these rules and conditions should encourage a high level of environmental protection, democratic participation, human health and safety;
8. Calls for the EU-BSR partnership to include transfer of knowledge and technology in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and technical support for grid design, and points out that energy saving is the key to increasing security of supply; supports research into alternative energy sources and, in particular, renewable energy, energy efficiency and

energy savings, which are essential if we are to face the challenges of climate change and contribute to the global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

9. Reaffirms that EU energy security policy is based on diversification of sources and routes; stresses the European added value and the importance of the Southern Gas Corridor as a means of enhancing the EU's security of supply; considers that projects such as the Nabucco pipeline, a key priority project for the EU, along with smaller projects, such as the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP), the Pan-European Oil Pipeline (PEOP), the Turkey-Greece-Italy Interconnector (ITGI) or the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Romania Interconnector (AGRI) emphasise both the vital importance of EU involvement in the BSR, and the further need to step up cooperation among the countries surrounding the Black Sea; asks the Commission and Member States, together with their partners, to support and speed up implementation of these projects;
10. Urges the Commission to conclude the agreements with the potential supplier countries for the Nabucco pipeline by the end of 2011;
11. Emphasises the potential of renewable energy sources in the BSR, which could make a major contribution to a secure energy future at global level and to sustainable economic growth, and calls on the Commission and the Black Sea riparian countries to unlock this potential;
12. Emphasises the need to strengthen multilateral energy cooperation in the BSR, for which the WTO and the Energy Charter Treaty provide the key principles; supports full market and regulatory integration on the basis of EU energy and environment legislation and encourages the participation of countries in the wider BSR in the Energy Community Treaty and EU, EIB and EBRD assistance for the modernisation of energy infrastructure in the BSR;
13. Stresses that, in the context of international trade and the transport of hydrocarbons in the region, it is essential to take account of the environmental sensitivity of the Black Sea and the Turkish straits, which is increasing the degree of danger posed by accidents and oil spills at these busy and dangerous chokepoints;
14. Welcomes the accession of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova to the Energy Community Treaty, which will have an important role in achieving the EU's energy security objectives and will contribute to the security of these countries;
15. Emphasises the urgency of establishing the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, which will contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Eastern Partnership and will thus have a positive impact on issues relating to energy security;
16. Stresses the need to involve regional partners in the early stages of project design in order to generate interest and to foster joint ownership; considers that the Baltic Sea Strategy could constitute an example of a macro-regional strategy that relies on cooperation between local authorities, business communities and civil society organisations;
17. Deplores the fact that the Black Sea Forum for Dialogue and Partnership has been adversely affected by regional tensions and, as a result, has not yet been established; considers that such a Forum could play a role in generating ideas and fostering dialogue

among regional actors;

18. Welcomes the establishment of sectoral partnerships in the three key areas, environment, transport and energy, which clears the way for the consideration and coordination concrete, long-term projects;
19. Welcomes the action taken to extend the EU Common Aviation Area to Black Sea countries; calls on the Commission to pursue the dialogue with the Republic of Moldova concerning the liberalisation of its air transport and swiftly to open negotiations for the Republic of Moldova's accession to the EU Common Aviation Area;
20. Considers that, for the purposes of international trade and the transport of hydrocarbons in the region, it is essential to develop the EU's Black Sea ports, including oil and gas terminals and intermodal transport arrangements; emphasises that such infrastructure should be built in strict compliance with the highest EU and international standards for the environmental protection of coastal regions, human health and security and after performing all relevant environmental impact assessments;
21. Calls on the Black Sea riparian states to conclude a memorandum of understanding for the development of Black Sea maritime corridors and asks the Commission to open a TEN-T budget line with funding for Black Sea maritime corridors similar to those existing for the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Mediterranean Sea maritime corridors;
22. Considers that, for the purposes of international trade and the transport of hydrocarbons in the region, it is essential to develop the EU's Black Sea and maritime Danube port infrastructure and intermodal transport infrastructure, and calls on the Commission and Member States to expedite completion of priority trans-European transport projects along axes 7, 18, 21 and 22, as provided for in Annex II to Decision No 884/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 amending Decision No 1692/96/EC on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and their progressive assimilation with the TRACECA corridor, the central axis, the south-east axis and the international maritime transport routes, as defined in the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on 'Extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries – Guidelines for transport in Europe and the neighbouring regions' (COM(2007)0032);
23. Considers it necessary to modernise road infrastructures in the BSR and ensure connections with European transport corridors; stresses the need to implement the Black Sea Motorway Project launched by the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) in 2006, which crosses all the BSEC countries, and calls on the Commission and Black Sea riparian states to include this among the TEN-T priority projects when the mid-term TEN-T policy review is carried out;
24. Acknowledges the results of the BSI¹ project to establish a regional research and education network in the wider BSR and its link to GEANT, and calls on the Commission to continue to support research projects in the BSR, such as HP-SEE, SEE-GRID, SCENE, CAREN and BSRN;

¹ Black Sea Interconnection.

25. Recognises the importance of the BSEC and acknowledges the role of the Black Sea Synergy, but stresses – given the geopolitical importance of the BSR and the lack of any notable successes so far from the Black Sea Synergy – the urgent need to develop a uniform EU strategy for the BSR, since only through such a strategy can the objective of enhanced and sustainable cooperation with the BSR be achieved;
26. Points out that the Black Sea Joint Operational Programme 2007-2013 funded by the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is the first EU-funded Black Sea cross-border cooperation programme, and calls on the Black Sea riparian states to sign the Financial Agreement with the Commission under which ENPI funding may be accessed, so as to make this programme a central instrument for implementation of the EU's Black Sea Strategy;
27. Calls, therefore, on the Commission to make the BSR a more urgent priority and to develop an EU Black Sea Strategy accompanied by an Action Plan incorporating flagship projects with the widest possible involvement of relevant operators and regional partners, particularly in the following cooperation areas: sustainable economic development, research and technological innovation, improving connectivity and communication, environmental protection, including nature conservation, security, migration, support for and development of civil society, education and cultural exchanges, using all available financial instruments (CF, ERDF, NIF, NPI);
28. Emphasises the need to link the macroregional strategy for the Danube Region with the BSR, since the Danube and the Black Sea constitute the largest non-oceanic body of water in Europe and a properly coordinated EU strategy can bring many benefits for the whole region.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	9.11.2010
Result of final vote	+: 45 -: 4 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Jean-Pierre Audy, Ivo Belet, Bendt Bendtsen, Jan Březina, Giles Chichester, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Lena Ek, Ioan Enciu, Gaston Franco, Adam Gierek, Fiona Hall, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, Philippe Lamberts, Bogdan Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, Marisa Matias, Judith A. Merkies, Angelika Niebler, Jaroslav Paška, Aldo Patriciello, Miloslav Ransdorf, Herbert Reul, Teresa Riera Madurell, Michèle Rivasi, Paul Rübig, Amalia Sartori, Francisco Sosa Wagner, Konrad Szymański, Britta Thomsen, Patrizia Toia, Evžen Tošenovský, Ioannis A. Tsoukalas, Claude Turmes, Vladimir Urutchev, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Kathleen Van Brempt, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Henri Weber
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	António Fernando Correia De Campos, Andrzej Grzyb, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Yannick Jadot, Silvana Koch-Mehrin, Ivari Padar, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Markus Pieper, Peter Skinner, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Catherine Trautmann
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Marek Henryk Migalski