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Committee on Regional Development

2006/0000(INI)

3.5.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on prospects for the internal gas and electricity market
(2006/0000(INI))

Draftswoman: Brigitte Douay

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development 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. Notes that the aim in creating a genuine internal energy market is to achieve the best price for individuals and companies; calls for the revision of the gas and electricity market directive to be based on the following principles: security of supply, customer satisfaction, a high level of public service, consideration of vulnerable customers and environmental protection, energy efficiency and the pursuit of innovative energy technologies;
2. Considers that the completion of the energy market is linked to the objective of economic, social and territorial cohesion, particularly in regions lagging behind, regions with natural disadvantages and the outermost regions;
3. Points out that the border regions are the first to be able to benefit from an effective internal market and obtain supplies from the country of their choice, and therefore stresses the problems encountered in these regions stemming from the different national legal frameworks and the lack of information exchange between countries;
4. Asks the Member States to simplify the licence procedures for the construction of new intrastate and cross-border transmission capacities since interregional and international market development can have a leverage effect on the development of the EU internal market;
5. Believes that security of supply cannot be treated as an exclusively national problem and calls on the Commission to help create and strengthen regional networks and decentralised energy production;
6. Stresses the necessity, given the international importance of the transmission of electricity and ever greater sensitiveness of the European energy plan as regards the reliability of individual schemes of Member States, to deepen cooperation, exchange of information and coordination of actions among individual transmission schemes; for this purpose it supports the creation of European coordination centre of transmission schemes of Member States;
7. Welcomes the Commission's intention to draw up an Energy Customers' Charter which would tackle inter alia fuel poverty and consumer information, and calls on the Commission to complete this work soon, taking account of the needs and characteristics of energy customers in regions with inherent natural disadvantages;
8. Considers that, to ensure more and better quality interconnections between Member States, true regional energy markets must be constituted; and that, after the launch of electricity markets, the initiatives of the Group of European Regulators on regional gas markets must be stepped up so that energy can be managed at the most appropriate level;
9. In this respect, welcomes the option of establishing a European network of independent

regulators (ERGEG+) which would enable the role of the current Group of European electricity and gas regulators (ERGEG) to be formalised;

10. Calls on the Member States to apply an effective level of regulation, ensure non-discriminatory access to networks, authorise national regulators to facilitate cross-border and trans-regional energy links and to adopt a coordinated regulatory approach;
11. Encourages investment to reinforce and adapt infrastructures for the production and transport of energy throughout Europe;
12. Believes that the debate on unbundling should take into account the specific characteristics of gas and electricity and of national and regional markets;
13. Calls on the Member States and regional authorities to provide the fullest possible information on the origin of electricity, particularly when it comes from renewable energy sources; stresses the importance of communication, in view of the full opening of the market in July 2007, and of the provision of reliable and transparent information on production in each country, on interconnections and on changes in real prices;
14. Calls also for strong support to be given to regional and local authorities in the area of energy efficiency, energy saving and sustainable development in the context of EU-supported projects, particularly with regard to policies on transport and housing.

PROCEDURE

Title	Prospects for the internal gas and electricity market
Procedure number	2007/2089(INI)
Committee responsible	ITRE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	REGI 26.4.2007
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Brigitte Douay 12.4.2007
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	12.4.2007
Date adopted	2.5.2007
Result of final vote	+: 43 -: 2 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Alfonso Andria, Stavros Arnautakis, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Rolf Berend, Wolfgang Bulfon, Antonio De Blasio, Vasile Dîncu, Gerardo Galeote, Iratxe García Pérez, Eugenijus Gentvilas, Gábor Harangozó, Marian Harkin, Jim Higgins, Alain Hutchinson, Gisela Kallenbach, Tunne Kelam, Evgeni Kirilov, Constanze Angela Krehl, Mario Mantovani, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez , Yiannakis Matsis, Miroslav Mikolášik, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Jan Olbrycht, Maria Petre, Markus Pieper, Elisabeth Schroedter, Stefan Sofianski, Grażyna Staniszevska, Oldřich Vlasák, Vladimír Železný
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Bastiaan Belder, Silvia Ciornei, Brigitte Douay, Den Dover, Riitta Myller, Zita Pleštinská, Christa Prets, Miloslav Ransdorf, Richard Seeber, László Surján, Károly Ferenc Szabó
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Véronique De Keyser, Henrik Lax, Samuli Pohjamo
Comments (available in one language only)	...