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Committee on Regional Development

2007/2106(INI)

9.10.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on an Action Plan for Energy Efficiency: Realising the Potential
(2007/2106(INI))

Draftsman: Tiberiu Bărbulețiu

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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. Welcomes the Commission's Communication regarding energy efficiency¹; regrets, however, the lack of vision at Member State level regarding the process of implementing the actions proposed, the failure to publicise those actions as required and provide sufficient information, and the seemingly inadequate coordination among the different tiers of governance;
2. Stresses the key role to be played by the EU's regional and local authorities in achieving the goal of 20% energy saving by 2020², notably through their actions as consumers, managers, suppliers, regulators and advisers with responsibility to control and influence energy decisions; welcomes therefore the Commission's intention to facilitate the connection of decentralised power generation to the general grid by means, for example, of measures making for greater interoperability; calls on the Commission in this regard to give priority to decentralised power generation and to clarify the regulatory instrument it intends to propose, the time-frame for its implementation, the nature of the operators involved and the terms of their contractual involvement;
3. Welcomes the Covenant of Mayors initiative, bringing together in a permanent network the mayors of 20 to 30 of Europe's largest and most pioneering cities, and calls for further details regarding its establishment; emphasises, however, that the Covenant of Mayors has to complement the activity of similar networks already existing;
4. Urges the Commission to speed up the drafting of the future memorandum of understanding on cooperation with the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER), which will lay down common guidelines and a common code of conduct, with a view to improving the efficiency of final energy use in all sectors;
5. Calls on the Commission to require systematic support for energy efficiency in every Member State when reviewing operational programmes setting out the priorities for the implementation of the Structural Funds; urges the new Member States to properly support the investment of Community funds in energy efficiency, encouraging the use of public-private partnerships (PPPs), in order to facilitate the refurbishment of buildings within the limits laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006³, the modernisation of district heating installations and small-scale combined heat and power generation;6. Encourages regional and local actors to take advantage of the funding opportunities and technical assistance available under the JASPERS, JEREMIE and JESSICA initiatives with a view to driving forward the development of energy efficiency projects; urges that accessible and accurate information on the practical implementation of those initiatives be widely

¹ Commission Communication entitled Action Plan for Energy Efficiency: Realising the Potential (COM(2006)0545).

² Commission Green Paper on Energy Efficiency or Doing more with less (COM(2005)0265).

³ Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on the European Regional Development Fund OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p.1.

disseminated at regional level;

7. Calls on the Commission, as a matter of the utmost urgency, to put forward specific measures aimed at achieving greater energy efficiency in the outermost regions, geared to their particular characteristics resulting from the effects of the permanent constraints to which these regions are subject;
8. Calls on all regional and local authorities to develop regional and local energy efficiency plans and asks those Member States that have not yet done so to transpose into national legislation the directive on the energy performance of buildings¹; asks the Commission to develop guidelines on control mechanisms to ensure the proper implementation of that directive, as well as accurate evaluation systems;
9. Points out that national, regional, and local authorities have a vital role to play in effectively publicising more efficient energy products, for instance by organising public information campaigns on the existing regulatory framework and employing energy efficiency labelling;
10. Encourages regional and local authorities to set an example by introducing energy saving programmes in public buildings and by including energy efficiency criteria in public procurement; calls on the Commission to help local authorities engage in the joint procurement of energy efficient products by providing a clear framework to facilitate the definition of measurable objectives and quality criteria;
11. Encourages regional and local authorities to develop close partnerships with regional energy agencies in order to improve training facilities for energy technicians and professionals working in related sectors; stresses the need for more coordinated networks of local actors in order to disseminate best practices in energy efficiency to less developed regions.
12. Stresses the need to enhance information and communication on energy efficiency at local and regional levels; to that end, calls for training and empowerment of local teams with a view to promoting energy efficiency.

¹ Directive 2002/91/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002 on the energy performance of buildings.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	4.10.2007
Result of final vote	+: 39 -: 1 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Stavros Arnaoutakis, Elspeth Attwooll, Jean Marie Beaupuy, Jana Bobošíková, Wolfgang Bulfon, Gerardo Galeote, Iratxe García Pérez, Eugenijus Gentvilas, Ambroise Guellec, Marian Harkin, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Rumiana Jeleva, Gisela Kallenbach, Tunne Kelam, Evgeni Kirilov, Miloš Koterec, Constanze Angela Krehl, Jamila Madeira, Mario Mantovani, Sérgio Marques, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Yiannakis Matsis, Miroslav Mikolášik, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Markus Pieper, Wojciech Roszkowski, Elisabeth Schroedter, Grażyna Staniszevska, Catherine Stihler, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Oldřich Vlasák
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Emanuel Jardim Fernandes, Zita Pleštinská, Samuli Pohjamo, Miloslav Ransdorf, Toomas Savi, Richard Seeber, Nikolaos Vakalis
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Mariela Velichkova Baeva, Zbigniew Zaleski