

PARLAMENTO EUROPEO

2004



2009

Comisión de Medio Ambiente, Salud Pública y Seguridad Alimentaria

PROVISIONAL
2005/2210(INI)

2.2.2006

PROYECTO DE OPINIÓN

de la Comisión de Medio Ambiente, Salud Pública y Seguridad Alimentaria

para la Comisión de Industria, Investigación y Energía

sobre la eficiencia energética o cómo hacer más con menos
(2005/2210(INI))

Ponente de opinión: Péter Olajos

PA_NonLeg

PE 367.883v01-00

2/5

PA\597880ES.doc

ES

BREVE JUSTIFICACIÓN

There are several reasons why energy efficiency should be promoted in Europe. Decoupling economic growth and energy demand and achieving a reduction in the overall energy consumption is essential for Europe to reach its goals regarding sustainable development and the fight against climate change.

The recent crisis related to the distribution of Russian natural gas supplies, has put the spotlight on Europe's dependence on imported energy sources, which is projected to increase substantially in the years to come. Curbing our energy demand could be an important part of the solution to this problem. Improving energy efficiency is also likely to have a positive effect on employment in Europe and will help boost the competitiveness of European industry and is thus fully in line with the aims of the Lisbon strategy.

For the above reasons, the Draftsman welcomes the Commission Green Paper and the increase in Community efforts to improve energy efficiency.

Regarding the goals set in the Green Paper, these were determined at a time when oil prices were around 30 USD/barrel, whereas today, they are as high as 70 USD and expected to rise even further. This increase makes it seem appropriate that more ambitious targets be set than the 20% reduction of energy consumption outlined in the Commission proposal.

As a result of improved technology, appliances, vehicles and buildings are now available which use much less energy than before. A quick diffusion of these new technologies can help realise the potential for energy savings that we have today. However, we must be aware that replacing older products with new ones earlier than necessary has a series of negative environmental implications such as increased waste, more pollution as well as the consumption of raw materials during the production process. The Draftsman strongly believes that at all cost we must avoid sending a false message to the European consumers and public procurement agents that they can best help the environment by throwing everything away prematurely.

The compulsory labelling of household appliances under Directive 92/75/EEC has proved a great success and lead to significant improvements in the energy performance of these products. It is precisely this improvement which makes it necessary to systematically review the labelling categories to keep up with technological change by ensuring that the labels remain clear, giving valid information to consumers so as not to mislead them. (Today's refrigerator models, for example, are all rated above category C, but the labels still show a scale of A-G, which gives a false perception of the energy performance of a refrigerator with the rating of B.) The Draftsman believes that the effect of labelling systems could be further enhanced if labels were required to provide estimates of the actual operating costs during the life of the product in question.

Buildings are the largest users of energy in Europe and also have vast potential for increasing efficiency. Since only a small part of Europe's building stock represents the newest technological standards, it is necessary to invest in improving the energy performance of older buildings and not just establishing standards for new constructions. The Draftsman believes that priority should be given to housing estates of high rise blocks of flats where the savings potential is the highest.

District heating systems are potentially more efficient than separate production, but in most places where these exist (notably the new Member States), the facilities operate with a great loss of energy. Therefore it is also very important to promote the modernisation of these systems, preferably linked to the modernisation of the buildings they supply. The Draftsman believes this is necessary in order to avoid local imbalances between the demand and the supply of heat.

The Draftsman believes that financing the initial investment is most often the main obstacle in the way of - otherwise beneficial - energy efficiency projects. Therefore he considers it important to promote new and innovative forms of financing, through Energy Service Companies (ESCO-s) and clearinghouse facilities, the creation of which generally requires external incentives. He believes that the great financial institutions, such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (BERD) and the World Bank also have a greater role to play in financing energy efficiency investments and should be encouraged to take up this responsibility.

SUGERENCIAS

La Comisión de Medio Ambiente, Salud Pública y Seguridad Alimentaria pide a la Comisión de Industria, Investigación y Energía, competente para el fondo, que incorpore las siguientes sugerencias en la propuesta de resolución que apruebe:

1. Subraya que el precio del petróleo, sobre el que se basa el objetivo de ahorro de energía del 20 % propuesto en el Libro Verde, es, actualmente significativamente superior, lo que se traduce en un aumento importante en términos de coste/eficacia de las medidas de eficiencia energética; pide, por tanto, a la Comisión que aumente en consecuencia el objetivo de ahorro;
2. Subraya que, por lo que respecta a los aparatos que utilizan energía (así como para los edificios y vehículos), el objetivo debe consistir en la reducción del impacto ambiental global a lo largo de todo el ciclo de vida; pide a la Comisión que lleve a cabo nuevos estudios –también para el sector de la construcción y los vehículos– con el fin de determinar el ciclo de vida mínimo (incluyendo el momento óptimo de su sustitución desde el punto de vista ambiental);
3. Considera que el etiquetado supone un medio eficaz de fomento de la eficiencia energética, y pide a la Comisión que continúe en esta dirección procediendo a la revisión sistemática de las categorías de etiquetado creadas de conformidad con la Directiva 92/75/CEE, extendiendo el etiquetado a una gama más amplia de aparatos y vehículos y creando etiquetas que informen al consumidor sobre las verdaderas implicaciones en términos de los costes;
4. Subraya la necesidad de ampliar el campo de aplicación de la Directiva 2002/91/CE relativa a la eficiencia energética de los edificios con el fin de incluir todas las renovaciones y prever una financiación adecuada para acelerar la renovación de los bloques de edificios dotados del mayor potencial de ahorro; considera que, en su caso, estos proyectos deberían combinarse con la renovación de los sistemas de calefacción urbana que abastecen a dichos edificios;
5. Subraya que los Estados miembros deben adoptar planes de acción nacionales de eficiencia energética basados en objetivos anuales vinculantes;
6. Subraya la necesidad de promover la creación de instrumentos del tipo cámara de compensación («clearing house») y de empresas de servicios energéticos (ESCO) para facilitar la realización de proyectos de eficiencia energética;
7. Pide a la Comisión y a los Estados miembros que alienten a las grandes instituciones financieras para que concedan prioridad a las inversiones en el ámbito de la eficiencia energética y tomen en consideración los aspectos relativos a la eficiencia energética al seleccionar los proyectos que recibirán financiación.