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Aplinkos, visuomenės sveikatos ir maisto saugos politikos komitetas

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NUOMONĖS PROJEKTAS

Aplinkos, visuomenės sveikatos ir maisto saugos politikos komiteto

pateiktas Pramonės, mokslinių tyrimų ir energetikos komitetui

dėl energijos vartojimo efektyvumo, arba kaip mažesnėmis sąnaudomis
sutaupytį daugiau energijos
(2005/2210(INI))

Nuomonės referentas: Péter Olajos

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

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.

PASIŪLYMAI

Aplinkos, visuomenės sveikatos ir maisto saugos komitetas ragina atsakingą a į savo pasiūlymą dėl rezoliucijos įtraukti šiuos pasiūlymus:

1. Atkreipia dėmesį, kad naftos kaina, kuria Žaliojoje knygoje pagristas siekis suaupyti 20 proc. energijos, labai išaugo. Tai lėmė žymų sąnaudų, skirtų energijos vartojimo efektyvumo priemonėms, padidėjimą; todėl ragina Komisiją atitinkamai padidinti taupymo lygi;
2. Pabrėžia, kad reikėtų sumažinti energiją vartojančių prietaisų (taip pat pastatų ir transporto priemonių) bendrą poveikį aplinkai per visą jų naudojimo laikotarpi; ragina Komisiją iniciuoti tolesnius tyrimus, neapeinant pastatų ir transporto priemonių, siekiant nustatyti jų minimalų naudojimo laiką, išskaitant aplinkai palankiausią jų pakeitimo laiką;
3. Mano, kad ženklinimas etiketėmis yra veiksmingas būdas skatinti energijos vartojimo efektyvumą, ir ragina Komisiją testi veiklą šia kryptimi nuolat peržiūrint etikečių kategorijas, sukurtas vadovaujantis Direktyva 92/75/EEB, išplečiant žymėjimą etiketėmis, įtraukiant daugiau prietaisų ir transporto priemonių bei sukuriant etiketes, kurios informuočios vartotojų apie konkrečias galimas sąnaudas;
4. Pabrėžia poreikį išplėsti Direktyvos 2002/91/EB taikymo sritį, kad ji apimtų pastatų energinių naudingumą, įtraukiant visų pastatų atnaujinimą, ir skirti atitinkamą finansavimą siekiant pagreitinti pastatų kvartalų atnaujinimą mažiausiomis sąnaudomis; kur įmanoma, šie projektai turėtų būti sujungti su rajonų šildymo sistemų šiuose pasatuose atnaujinimu;
5. Pabrėžia poreikį, kad valstybės narės priimtu nacionalinius energijos vartojimo efektyvumo veiksmų planus su privalomais metiniais rodikliais;
6. Pabrėžia poreikį skatinti kliringo paslaugų ir energetikos paslaugų bendrovių kūrimą siekiant palengvinti efektyvaus energijos vartojimo projektų įgyvendinimą;
7. Ragina Komisiją ir valstybes nares skatinti pagrindines finansų institucijas skirti prioritetą investicijoms į energijos taupymą ir atsižvelgti į energijos taupymo aspektus atrenkant finansuotinus projektus.