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*Commissie milieubeheer, volksgezondheid en voedselveiligheid*

VOORLOPIGE VERSIE  
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## ONTWERPADVIES

van de Commissie milieubeheer, volksgezondheid en voedselveiligheid

aan de Commissie industrie, onderzoek en energie

inzake energie-efficiëntie of meer doen met minder  
(2005/2210(INI))

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## **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.

## **SUGGESTIES**

De Commissie milieubeheer, volksgezondheid en voedselveiligheid verzoekt de ten principale bevoegde Commissie industrie, onderzoek en energie onderstaande suggesties in haar ontwerpresolutie op te nemen:

1. legt de nadruk op het feit dat de olieprijs waarop de energiebesparingsdoelstelling van 20 % in het Groenboek is gebaseerd, nu beduidend hoger ligt, wat tot een aanzienlijke verhoging van de kosteneffectiviteit van de maatregelen inzake energie-efficiëntie leidt; roept de Commissie daarom op de besparingsdoelstelling dienovereenkomstig te verhogen;
2. benadrukt dat voor energieverbruikende apparatuur (of gebouwen of voertuigen) de doelstelling moet bestaan uit de vermindering van het algehele milieueffect tijdens hun totale levenscyclus; roept de Commissie op nader onderzoek te laten doen (ook voor gebouwen en voertuigen) teneinde deze levenscycliminima te bepalen (met inbegrip van de optimale timing voor vervanging vanuit milieustandpunt);
3. meent dat etikettering een efficiënt middel is om energie-efficiëntie te bevorderen en roept de Commissie op verder te gaan op de ingeslagen weg door systematisch de in het kader van Richtlijn 92/75/EEG ontwikkelde etiketcategorieën te herzien, etikettering bij meer apparatuur en ook bij voertuigen toe te passen en etiketten te ontwikkelen die de consument over de werkelijke gevolgen voor de kosten informeren;
4. benadrukt de noodzaak het toepassingsbereik van Richtlijn 2002/91/EG betreffende de energieprestatie van gebouwen tot alle renovaties uit te breiden en een adequate financiering te bieden om de renovatie van gebouwen met het hoogste besparingspotentieel te versnellen; zo mogelijk moeten deze projecten met de renovatie van de bijbehorende blokverwarmingssystemen worden gecombineerd;
5. onderstreept dat lidstaten een nationaal actieplan inzake energie-efficiëntie met verplichte jaarlijkse doelstellingen moeten aannemen;
6. beklemtoont dat het belangrijk is de ontwikkeling van distributievoorzieningen en leveranciers van energiegebonden diensten te bevorderen om de totstandbrenging van projecten inzake energie-efficiëntie te vergemakkelijken;
7. roept de Commissie en de lidstaten op de grote financiële instellingen aan te moedigen voorrang te geven aan investeringen in energie-efficiëntie en bij de selectie van te financieren projecten rekening te houden met aspecten inzake energie-efficiëntie.