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Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

2007/2106(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

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

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs 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. Recalls that realising savings in energy is the most effective way to reduce carbon emissions and to stimulate the development of a large leading-edge market for energy-efficient technologies and products;
2. Believes that public procurement standards have a key role to play to enhance energy efficiency; urges the public authorities of Member States to make full use of the social and environmental clauses of the Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors¹ to integrating i.e. energy efficiency considerations;
3. Shares the view that energy efficiency in the building sector is a top priority; calls on the Commission to evaluate the possibility to set up free auditing for the building sector to upgrading energy efficiency; calls on the Commission to make an assessment of the existing best practices in funding first investment in building;
4. Urges Member States to make full use of the possibility of reduced VAT rate on labour in renovation and repair of private dwellings to improve energy efficiency; calls on the Council to agree to the removal in all Member States of VAT on materials and components which improve energy efficiency in buildings;
5. Considers of utmost importance to realise energy savings in the transport sector; reiterates that taxation is an essential tool to improving vehicle fuel efficiency; regrets the current limitations to internalising transport externalities by means of fuel taxes, as "fuel tank tourism" undermines the efforts of the authorities;
6. Believes that full savings in the transport sector requires a substantial shifting to other modes of traffic; considers it essential to encourage the use of public transport, car-sharing and non-motorised transport modes in European cities so as to address effectively the ever-growing environmental impact of traffic.

¹ OJ L 134, 30.4.2004, p. 1.