



2015/2113(INI)

16.9.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on Towards a European Energy Union
(2015/2113(INI))

Rapporteur: Francisco Assis

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the efforts by the Commission to build a resilient Energy Union and calls for its rapid implementation and for an effort to be made to revise its energy and climate targets upwards, while ensuring a level playing field between European and non-European energy producers, including the broad application of a revised Emissions Trading System (ETS); calls on the Commission and on the Member States to envisage the measures that would ensure equal conditions of competition between producers in the EU and in third countries, especially so that the highest safety and environmental standards are ensured;
2. Stresses that a genuine EU Common External Energy Policy should go hand in hand with its Common Foreign and Security Policy; urges in this context better coordination between the Vice-President / High Representative (VP/HR) and the relevant Commissioners with the goal of enhancing the coherence of EU external energy security policies; calls on the Commission therefore to create a stronger cluster under the leadership of the VP/HR with the position of an appointee responsible for the coordination of such policies;
3. Highlights how binding, ambitious EU and national energy and climate targets for energy efficiency and renewables would help secure the EU's technological leadership in those fields;
4. Stresses that energy should not be used as a means of exerting political pressure within or among the Member States or on any framework of international cooperation or foreign policy;
5. Stresses that a sufficient, secure, stable, affordable energy supply can only be achieved when energy, trade and external policy go hand in hand in a coherent and consistent manner, which means that the EU must also frame its energy policy within the scope of its foreign policy objectives and strategic interests, particularly when it comes to relations with third countries, and make it consistent with development, security and trade policies across the external policy spectrum; believes that the EU can reduce its dependency on particular external suppliers and fuels, thus contributing to long-term energy security by maximising its use of renewable sources of energy and prioritising fuels or technologies that are environmentally sustainable;
6. Stresses the need for the EU and its Member States to speak with one voice at the international level, to resist the divide-and-rule tactics used by the Russian Federation and to prevent political pressure being exerted by the blocking of energy supply routes; warns, however, of the dangers of pursuing a diplomatic approach that purposefully ignores abuse and the sponsoring of violence by certain regimes in energy supplying countries; recalls, therefore, that an effective and consistent foreign policy of the Union must be based on the core principles and values of democracy, human rights and freedom;
7. Underlines the importance of full solidarity between the Member States in the area of

energy security;

8. Notes that prioritising energy efficiency and renewable energy, and the diversification where appropriate of energy sources and supply routes will reduce our overall energy needs and imports and that increased support for energy-related research and development, which will respect the principle of technological neutrality is key to a just energy transition towards a low-carbon economy and is vital for reinforcing the EU's technological leadership; points out the importance of supporting energy storage and conversion technology to safeguard against volatile global energy prices and disruptions in international energy supply;
9. Calls on the Commission and the VP/HR to set up a comprehensive framework for the external dimension of the Energy Union, with a specific focus on the promotion of strategic partnerships with energy-producing and transit third countries, in particular within the European neighbourhood and with regard to enlargement policies, based on shared common values; this should take into account the current state of regional cooperation and the planning and development of major strategic infrastructure projects and rapid mobilisation of funds for existing ones, including developing alternative routes and energy suppliers for those Member States currently dependent on a single supplier and those identified as energy islands; highlights the importance of the energy partnership with southern Mediterranean and Eastern Partnership countries and considers it should occupy a relevant place in the ongoing review of the European Neighbourhood Policy; stresses that extending energy infrastructure as well as energy governance legislation into the European Energy Community will contribute to greater stability and an improved investment environment in the EU's immediate vicinity;
10. Calls on the Commission to continue to press for the setting up of a system for energy exchange between the EU and the US, in light of the current and future developments in research, innovation and licensing of power line systems, such as high voltage power connections, aimed at developing a global renewable energy sharing network;
11. Calls on the Commission to develop a comprehensive strategy for diversification of energy supply; stresses the importance of low-carbon indigenous sources for countries highly reliant on energy imports and especially on a single supplier;
12. Stresses that a future Energy Union should end any energy isolation of Member States and regions and should support most vulnerable countries to diversify their sources and supply routes as a matter of priority;
13. Calls on the Commission to accelerate the establishment of mutual energy interconnections among Member States, which would help to reduce dependence on energy suppliers outside the EU;
14. Invites the Commission to set out the options available for the joint negotiation of energy contracts with external suppliers, which should always adhere to and promote the EU's core values, namely respect for human rights and democracy and social, environmental and consumer protection; calls for the Commission to have a stronger role in verifying the compatibility of intergovernmental agreements and large commercial contracts with EU law and their impact on energy security, including their ex ante evaluation and participation in negotiations; emphasises that sustainable consumption of resources as

well as a low emission economy, should be at the core of the Energy Union and that this must be reflected in EU policies and in the EU's pioneering efforts in tackling climate change; stresses that negotiating with one voice with third countries should be the basis of the Energy Union; calls in this context on the Commission and the Member States to voluntarily introduce a common negotiating mechanism in order to strengthen the EU's collective bargaining potential which would lead to a EU negotiating position;

15. Calls on the Commission to create a high-level reflection group on energy security, foreign policy, and the Energy Union with strong representation and involvement from Parliament and of societal stakeholders, in order to develop credible long-term demand, supply and cooperation scenarios with external partners, especially in the field of capacity building and technology exchange on renewable energy and energy efficiency and the relation between energy and human rights;
16. Calls on the Commission to maintain its goal of devoting a separate chapter to energy in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP);
17. Believes that solidarity among Member States as the overarching principle to ensure security of energy supply should also be extended to the contracting parties of the energy community.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	15.9.2015
Result of final vote	+: 51 -: 10 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Nikos Androulakis, Francisco Assis, Petras Auštrevičius, Amjad Bashir, Bas Belder, Goffredo Maria Bettini, Mario Borghezio, Elmar Brok, Klaus Buchner, James Carver, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Javier Couso Permuy, Knut Fleckenstein, Anna Elżbieta Fotyga, Eugen Freund, Michael Gahler, Richard Howitt, Sandra Kalniete, Tunne Kelam, Afzal Khan, Janusz Korwin-Mikke, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Arne Lietz, Barbara Lochbihler, Sabine Lösing, Ulrike Lunacek, Andrejs Mamikins, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, David McAllister, Francisco José Millán Mon, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Demetris Papadakis, Tonino Picula, Kati Piri, Andrej Plenković, Cristian Dan Preda, Jozo Radoš, Sofia Sakorafa, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Alyn Smith, Jaromír Štětina, Charles Tannock, Eleni Theoharous, Ivo Vajgl, Elena Valenciano, Geoffrey Van Orden, Hilde Vautmans
Substitutes present for the final vote	Ana Gomes, Andrzej Grzyb, Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Urmas Paet, Miloslav Ransdorf, Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, György Schöpflin, Renate Sommer, Dubravka Šuica, Traian Ungureanu, Bodil Valero
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu