

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs WALZ,

Mr LINKOHR, on behalf of the Socialist Group,

Mr SÄLZER, on behalf of the European People's Party,

Mr PURVIS, on behalf of the European Democratic Group

with a request for topical and urgent debate
pursuant to Rule 48 of the Rules of Procedure

on the Twelfth World Energy Conference in New Delhi
from 18 to 23 September 1983

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the communications from the Commission to the Council reviewing energy policy objectives for 1990 (COM(81) 64 final) and Member States' energy policy programmes (COM(82) 326 final),
- having regard to:
 - the resolution of 5 November 1982 of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly on ACP-EEC cooperation in the field of energy¹,
 - the European Parliament's resolution of 11 March 1983 on the preconditions for an effective energy policy in the Community²,
 - the European Parliament's resolution of 13 April 1983 on responding to the economic and monetary consequences of instability in the world energy market³,
- A. recalling the trends that emerged at the Eleventh World Energy Conference in Munich in 1980, highlighting the common destiny of industrialized and developing countries which are dependent on one another in their own interests,
- B. whereas the Twelfth World Energy Conference takes place in September 1983 in New Delhi and must consider further the problems raised in Munich of disparities in energy supply and investment potential both in the industrialized and the developing countries, and make progress towards a solution equitable for all the interested parties,
- C. whereas the European Communities are contributing to the work of the Conference and will adopt a broadly common position on the energy policy decisions reaching towards the 21st century,

¹OJ No. C 39, 10.2.1983, p. 28-32

²OJ No. C 96, 11.4.1983, p. 97-101 (Percheron report, Doc. 1-1200/82)

³OJ No. C 128, 16.5.1983, p. 46-50 (Purvis report, Doc. 1-1197/82)

- D. considering the importance of energy policy in combating unemployment, safeguarding the social balance in those countries where it has now largely been achieved, promoting social balance where it remains an objective, restoring or creating the conditions for healthy quantitative and qualitative growth, and as a basis for economic development in general,
- E. whereas the European Parliament has made provision for energy aid to the developing countries through Article 947 of the general budget of the European Communities for 1983 and also for energy programming,
- F. conscious of the decision of the Williamsburg Summit to give special attention, in particular official development assistance, for energy production, both bilateral and through appropriate international institutions, including appropriate funding levels for the International Development Agency,
- G. whereas:
- (a) despite continuing exploration of the earth's reserves of fossil and hydrocarbon fuels, these reserves must ultimately be seen as finite and their exploitation will at some stage leave future generations without these resources, which are even more important as raw materials for the chemical industry than as sources of energy,
 - (b) many developing countries rely on wood as a major source of energy and there is a danger of erosion and desertification of the territory of these countries, with all the resulting consequences, unless the balance between tree-felling and regrowth is restored as soon as possible; this entails helping the population to make more effective use of firewood, e.g. through better cooler and boiler design, and providing access to other forms of energy as a replacement, renewable ones where possible,

1. Notes that in many developing countries per capita energy consumption is up to forty times less than that in some leading industrialized nations, that the economic and social advancement and indigenous population growth of the developing countries is bound to lead to higher energy consumption and an accompanying strain on their balance of payments, for which remedies are required, and that at present in these countries there is a lack of viable investment projects and readily available energy resources at reasonable cost, particularly in the poorest among them;
2. Notes further that this challenge in the field of energy supply must lead to maximum efforts in research and development, the exploitation of all indigenous renewable and non-renewable sources of energy and also to the breaking of the link between economic growth and increased energy consumption as soon as possible, and that a common strategy must be formulated in this area, based on a genuine balance of interests between all the parties concerned;
3. Considers, therefore, that cooperation between industrialized and developing countries in the energy sector should be directed towards reducing dependence on external sources of supply through improvements in the use of existing resources and in the exploitation of new energy resources in the developing countries;
4. Points out that there is also a need for better cooperation between the developing countries themselves through regional energy cooperation, so as to make better use of the great potential which exists in terms of water power, geothermal energy and not least coal, and thus improve the energy supplies of the rapidly growing conurbations;
5. Emphasizes, however, on the other hand the crucial importance of supplying energy to rural areas to improve infrastructure and the level of education (e.g. through school radio and television programmes), to enable businesses and small-scale industry to become established, e.g. for food processing, and to halt by all these means the drift of population away from agriculture and towards the congested urban areas;

6. Stresses the value of these tasks of decentralized energy projects situated near the point of consumption and based on solar energy, wind and water power, biomass, hydroelectric, ocean heat and available fuels such as peat;
7. Points out, however, that the need to make better use of finite energy reserves and to develop alternative sources is in no way obviated by the present still-downward trend in oil prices, since an upturn in economic growth, which is a worldwide objective, must not be prejudiced by energy shortages and higher energy costs caused by fresh increases in demand;
8. Sees as a major problem the lack of adequately evaluated projects in certain less-developed countries, where a shortage also exists of skilled technical and managerial staff, a situation which the industrialized countries must help to remedy in their own interest on the basis of the potential available and that being developed;
9. Believes that the political security of energy investments and of exploration and development of oil, gas, uranium and coal should be guaranteed by all host nations, or by an international authority established jointly for this purpose;
10. Recognizes that all the industrialized countries must continue and reinforce the existing and hitherto successful policies aimed at reducing demand for non-renewable energy sources, so that the pressure on prices is eased also for the developing countries; the peaceful use of nuclear power in the industrialized nations, as well as in some more advanced developing countries, can make a significant contribution in this area;
11. Invites developing countries to accede to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty so that they can more readily and quickly gain access to the benefits of nuclear power technology for peaceful purposes;

12. Emphasizes that adherence to the Non-Proliferation Treaty by non-signatory states would facilitate the wider and safer development of peaceful nuclear power, a virtually renewable energy source;
13. Recommends that priority should be given by the developing countries to agriculture and the processing of agricultural products (food), administration and management training and to exploiting even small-scale indigenous energy resources, and by the oil-exporting countries to energy resource maximalization, social services, transport infrastructure and investment management;
14. Calls for closer and more effective cooperation between industrialized nations, their organizational groupings and the oil-exporting countries, so that on this basis, through the medium of joint working parties in all these states and in the developing countries, worthwhile schemes and infrastructure projects of optimum scale can be identified, on which the human and financial resources should be concentrated and which will most readily achieve the abovementioned energy policy objectives;
15. Emphasized with regard to the financing of these projects the crucial role of the World Bank, the IMF, the IDA, the European Investment Bank, the European and other such regional development institutions and the need for better coordination between them;
16. Draws attention to the need for Comecon to play a more significant role than it has played hereto fore;
17. Hopes that the 1983 World Energy Conference, recognizing the problems and needs involved, will have a wholly successful outcome which must be converted as soon as possible into effective energy policy measures to benefit all parties;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the President of the 1983 World Energy Conference, OPEC, the Commission and the Council.

