

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

5 October 1982

DOCUMENT 1-659/82

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr MEO

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the Community's energy policy in anticipation
of the world energy conference in New Delhi in 1983

PE 80.687



The European Parliament,

- A - having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council (COM(81) 540 final) on the development of an energy strategy for the Community,
 - B - having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council (COM(82) 77 final) on the energy situation in the Community,
 - C - having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council (COM(81) 64/final) on the review of energy policy objectives for 1990 and Member States' investment programmes,
 - D - whereas the world energy and research conference will be held in New Delhi in September 1983,
 - E - whereas the Community must contribute to the work of the conference and present a joint approach on energy policy options for 1990/2000,
 - F - whereas energy policy is essential to combat unemployment, guarantee social equilibrium, re-establish a basis for healthy growth and trigger off an economic revival,
1. Notes that the Member States' energy investment programmes which amount to about 500,000 million EUA over the next 10 years, with 80% earmarked for energy production and 20% for measures to increase the efficient use of energy, and represent some 2% of GDP, are still inadequate; therefore calls on the Commission and the Council to draw up revised programmes for investments in energy saving of the order of 200,000 million EUA that will bring total investments for the next decade to 600,000 million EUA or about 2.4% of GDP;
 2. Reminds the Commission and the Council of the need resolutely to pursue the main objective of the common energy policy, i.e. maximum independence vis-à-vis hydrocarbon imports,

to this end, invites the Commission and the Council to adopt a directive prohibiting the construction of any new oil or gas-fired electricity power station with a capacity of more than 10 MW (on pain of a tax equal to \$10 per barrel of oil equivalent consumed to be paid to the Community authorities),

calls for all the energy balances of the Community and the Member States to be published with a column for imported hydrocarbons showing total oil and gas purchased abroad;

3. Deplores the Community's half-hearted measures to devise a common energy policy and calls for resolute steps to bring about a convergence of energy activities in the Community using varied energy systems and methods that respect the peculiarities of the Member States and the sensitivity of public opinion so that a Community energy strategy can be transformed as soon as possible into a Community policy that will guarantee economic and social progress;
4. Considers it even more necessary in the circumstance that it should be made easier for governments, contractors and individuals to take consistent decisions more or less automatically by applying a system of consistent prices and charges that provide the necessary transparency;
- urges the Commission and the Council to decide to reduce the difference between the prices and taxes applied to oil products in each Member State and the Community average by 10% each year for the next 10 years. This method will be applied subsequently to other forms of energy;
5. Points out that as the Community is favourably disposed towards coal, it is legitimate to allow a reasonable differential between the cost of coal produced in the Community and imported coal but that this does not mean that mines that are by no means profitable should be allowed to remain open,
- recommends that the use of coal be encouraged by the following measures:
- aid for reconversion investments and district heating
 - development of an R & D programme for the more efficient use of coal
 - further studies into coal gasification and Liquefaction
 - aid for port and transport infrastructures,
- proposes to the Commission and the Council that a fuel tax be introduced that will guarantee a sufficient price difference for coal when market prices change (so that industries or individuals who have invested in conversion to coal are guaranteed a return on their money);
6. Reminds the Member States that of the 125 nuclear GW that should be in service by the end of 1990, more than half will be located in one Member State,
- notes that the capacity of industrial reprocessing plants already under construction, given the go-ahead or at the initial planning stage, is about 5 years behind estimated requirements for the next 20 years,
- calls for the option of reprocessing irradiated fuels and of breeder reactors to be kept open as this is the only means of guaranteeing

- real economic independence for the community in the future;
7. Calls for a series of specific energy management measures;
 - combined heat/power production,
 - abolition of graduated rates for electricity and adoption of a dual system of charges,
 - 50% reduction in the weighted fuel consumption of new vehicles delivered by manufacturers in 1990 compared with 1980;
 8. Calls on the Community to step up its efforts to develop new energy sources, a potentially fruitful area for intra-Community cooperation and aid to developing countries;
 9. Also calls for the closure of surplus distillation capacity and the development of heavy cracking installations;
 10. As regards the policy towards the Third World, calls for the resolute pursuit of :
 - cooperation agreements : development of new energy sources, particularly solar energy and biomass, and specific priority measures to combat deforestation,
 - the support given to the World Bank and the EIB for the creation of specialist energy organizations or mechanisms;
 - IDA policy, particularly by proposing that Member States renounce the pari passu clause and make available all of the second and third tranches they have agreed to;
 11. Lastly, calls for the opening of negotiations with the OPEC countries and in particular Saudi Arabia on the creation of a strategic oil stock and the possibility of common energy prices, invites the Commission to take the necessary initiative by entering into exploratory talks with senior representatives of the producing countries;
 12. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council of the European Communities.

