

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 266/73

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

submitted by Mr SPRINGORUM, president of the committee, on behalf of the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology (*)

with request for consideration by urgent procedure pursuant to Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure

on/immediate measures needed to alleviate the energy supply crisis in the European Community

(*) Adopted unanimously, with one abstention, at the committee meeting of 3 December 1973.

The following were present: Mr SPRINGORUM, chairman, Mr FLÄMIG, vice-chairman, Lord BESSBOROUGH, Mr GLESENER, Mr KATER, Mr LAGORCE, Mr LAUTENSCHLAGER, Mr LEONARDI, Mr NOE, Mr VAN DER SANDEN, Mr VERHAEGEN, Mrs WALZ.

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the need to take all appropriate measures likely to improve energy supplies, and concerned at the energy supply prospects for the European Community,
- 1. Regrets that the Council of Ministers responsible for energy policy did not meet as planned on 25 and 26 November 1973 to seek possible solutions to the present energy crisis in the European Community;
- 2. Notes that the present energy crisis cannot be overcome merely by implementing the proposals submitted to the Council and Parliament by the Commission and that the Commission has not yet submitted any proposals likely to be successful;
- 3. Believes the fair rationing of existing inadequate energy sources to be a possible way of countering the shortage but would consider it only as a last resort;
- 4. Believes that under the present circumstances measures of control are necessary which do not respect the rules of a free market economy and may contain statutory provisions designed to direct the individual sources of energy primarily to the sectors in which there are no possibilities of substitution;
- 5. Calls for the presentation at an early date of an energy plan adapted to the new situation in order to give investors, at least in the medium-term, the essential safeguards for the necessary investments in the area of energy supply;
- 6. Feels obliged to propose to the Council and Commission measures which may help to alleviate the present energy crisis and accordingly considers the following action necessary, although this list is not exhaustive:
 - a) the capacity of refineries which have the appropriate facilities to convert heavy fuel oil into lighter products should be fully utilized;
 - b) power stations, steel works and other large plants which are able to burn solid fuels instead of hydrocarbons should use coal or coal products; when new facilities are authorized and licensed, the question of the most appropriate source of energy should be examined as should the possibility of granting aid or tax concessions;

- c) coal-fired power stations which are at present used almost exclusively to meet peak demand in the European Community should from now on be used to meet the medium or basic demand as well if the operating time of oil-fired power stations can be reduced in this way;
- d) the maximum values for sulphur emission from heavy fuel oil in power stations should be temporarily relaxed if the proportion of light products in the refineries can be increased in this way and if this measure seems desirable to safeguard energy supplies;
- e) the extension or construction of plants which convert residual oils (heavy fuel oil) into light mineral oil products should begin at once; deficiency guarantees may be granted if necessary;
- f) the transport of bulk goods over long distances should as far as possible be transferred from the roads to the railways, if the necessary capacity is available;
- g) domestic air traffic should be limited sufficiently for there to be no significant waiting time on take-off or landing at the airports;
- h) statutory measures must be taken to simplify and harmonize procedures for authorizing the construction and commissioning of all energy supply facilities;
- i) preparatory measures must be taken to increase coal output in the Community at an early date;
- j) priority must be given to the maintenance of jobs whenever energy policy measures are taken;
- k) assistance must be given to the socially weak sections of the population to compensate for the disproportionate rise in fuel oil prices;
- l) the European Community must be given adequate power to coordinate all these measures in the Member States;
- m) the Community and the Member States should immediately work out offers of cooperation in the technological, industrial, trade policy and general economic fields and submit them to the oil-exporting countries;

7. Reserves the right to make proposals at the appropriate time for medium and long-term action to safeguard energy supplies, in addition to these short-term measures;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and Commission of the European Communities.

