European strategic energy technology plan

2008/2005(INI) - 09/07/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 596 votes to 85, with 14 abstentions, a resolution on the European strategic energy technology plan (SET-Plan), in response to the Commission’s communication on the subject. The own initiative report had been tabled for consideration in plenary by Jerzy **BUZEK**(EPP-ED, PL) on behalf of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

MEPs welcome the European Strategic Energy Technology plan and consider that a European energy technology policy with adequate financial support is fundamental to achieving the European Union's energy and climate change objectives for 2020. They believe that the development and deployment of innovative, low-cost, low-carbon energy technologies, energy efficiency and renewable energy are essential to reducing emissions and creating new markets for EU industry. The Parliament considers that in order to achieve these targets it is vital to reduce the cost of green energy and to boost innovation in the energy sector. To that end, it recommends improving the process of technology transfer from research centres to enterprises, cutting market penetration times, ending the current technological and regulatory inertia and enhancing network interconnectivity.

Coordination and Strategic Planning: the resolution emphasises the need to enhance the coordination of Strategic Energy Technologies at various levels and among different partners. MEPs support the establishment of a High Level Steering Group and a transparent and easily accessible information system on energy technology, especially for SMEs. They also emphasise the vital importance of improving coordination with third countries, and reinforcing international cooperation in order to implement a coherent and differentiated strategy in relation to developed, developing and emerging economies.

Research and technology transfer: MEPs reiterate that the SET plan must build energy research and innovation capacity on a European scale. Coordination must extend to the various scientific and technological fields that play a part in energy technology research and development, particularly biology, information technology, materials science and macro-technologies. The resolution emphasises the need to improve the transfer of technologies from research centres to enterprises so that the private sector invests more in research and assumes greater risks.

European Industrial Initiatives (EIIs): MEPs believe that increased support is needed for **low carbon technologies** in the demonstration and commercialisation phase. Therefore, they welcome the proposed EIIs. The EIIs should be focussed on areas which have the greatest potential to help achieve the EU's climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy objectives on a sustainable basis, as well as allowing reduced costs and replication in the long term.

The resolution strongly supports the proposed EIIs on wind, solar, bio-energy, CO2 capture, transport and storage, electricity grids and nuclear fission. In particular, MEPs call for **biofuels** research to be intensified and stress the importance of developing large-scale biomass to gas conversion to produce hydrogen and liquid synthetic fuels for sustainable transport technologies. The Commission is called to investigate the possibility of **extending the EIIs proposed to other sectors** with significant emissions reduction potential such as cogeneration, hydrogen, the construction and housing sector, heating and cooling systems, better energy storage and distribution infrastructures and interconnection of networks.
MEPs believe that the development of **carbon capture and storage** (CCS) technology could play a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, provided its efficiency and safety is assured. They call on the Commission to facilitate the realisation of up to 12 proposed CCS full-scale demonstration projects within the EIIs.

Financing: the resolution points out that the SET plan should not be financed through the reallocation of funds made available for energy under FP7 and CIP. MEPs encourage the Commission to ensure adequate financing and support for new low carbon and zero carbon technology R&D, demonstration and commercialisation, so that from 2009 onwards, at least **EUR 2 billion per annum** of the EU budget is spent on support for such technologies independently from FP7 and CIP. The Commission is called to put forward proposals for additional resources in the mid-term review of the financial framework 2007-2013.