


Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic) 1997/2104(COS)	Procedure completed
Climate change: energy dimension, preparation of the Kyoto Conference, December 1997	
Subject 3.70.03 Climate policy, climate change, ozone layer 3.70.18 International and regional environment protection measures and agreements	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		19/06/1997
		PSE LINKOHR Rolf	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		22/07/1997
		PPE PIMENTA Carlos	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Environment	2017	19/06/1997
	Energy	2009	27/05/1997

Key events			
14/05/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0196	Summary
27/05/1997	Debate in Council	2009	
29/05/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/06/1997	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
29/10/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
29/10/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0343/1997	
17/11/1997	Debate in Parliament		
19/11/1997	Decision by Parliament	T4-0559/1997	Summary
19/11/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
08/12/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2104(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 142
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENER/4/08945

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1997)0196	14/05/1997	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0104/1997 OJ C 379 15.12.1997, p. 0011	17/09/1997	CofR	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0343/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0002	29/10/1997	EP	
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		CES1193/1997	29/10/1997	ESC	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0559/1997 OJ C 371 08.12.1997, p. 0047-0077	19/11/1997	EP	Summary

Climate change: energy dimension, preparation of the Kyoto Conference, December 1997

OBJECTIVE: This communication on the energy dimension of climate change is intended to accelerate the negotiations at the UN Conference which is due to open in Kyoto in December 1997; it stresses the energy implications with a view to the preparation of another communication of general import which will examine all aspects of CO₂ emissions and climate change. SUBSTANCE: The Council's conclusions of 3 March 1997 on climate change showed the Community's determination to act: agreement was reached that the Community will propose that the OECD member states and the transition states should commit themselves to a 15% reduction in their emissions of the main greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O) by 2010 (as compared to the reference year of 1990). Should the Union carry on at the existing rate, CO₂ emissions will be approximately 8% higher in 2010 than in 1990 - a divergence of twenty points from the negotiating position the Council has set itself. To bridge the gap, ambitious policies and measures are required, especially for energy. The objectives of this communication are to draw attention to the challenge facing the political decision-makers, to identify areas for political intervention and to examine the actions required, with a view to achieving the goal of reducing emissions in a cost-effective manner. With a view to launching the debate and adopting political decisions, the Commission suggests a number of possible approaches: - improved energy efficiency and energy saving (it is essential to establish how to go beyond the energy-saving achievements of recent years); - greater cooperation with economic operators and new actions in the field of environmental agreements; - acceleration of the penetration of renewable energy sources: the Commission suggests, as a possible ambitious but realistic objective, doubling the share of these energy sources (from 6% to 12%) by 2010; - better energy management at island, local and regional level; - promoting combined heat and electricity production initiatives; - development of the electricity generation sector, as being crucial for overall CO₂ emission trends (the sector is responsible for nearly one-third of all CO₂ emissions, but it is possible to limit emissions despite rising demand); - in the context of technological innovation, efficient and sustainable energy services should be developed via the use of different energy technologies; - limitation of other greenhouse gas emissions (coalmines are an important source of methane emissions, and the production and distribution of natural gas inevitably entail gas leakages); - as regards fiscal instruments and financial resources, measures such as 'green loans' (as in the Netherlands), 'green electricity' (as in Germany) or biofuels pilot projects (as in France) should be examined and made use of. The Commission stresses that the reorientation of energy policy will call for the mobilization of new financial resources, and that the Member States should be aware of this extra burden. ?

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The text adopted by the committee focused on the greenhouse gas emission targets set by the European Union to be negotiated at the climate change conference in Kyoto in December 1997. If additional efforts were not made, an increase of 5% to 8% in CO₂ emissions could be expected. Rapporteur Rolf LINKOHR (PES, D) said: "While EU representatives create a positive feeling during international negotiations with scenarios involving reductions, the recorded values indicate the opposite." The committee emphasized energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy. In addition, It called for: -priority to be given to greenhouse gas cuts over other energy goals; -a massive increase in funding for energy research; -the establishment of an International Climate Agency to collect information and identify obstacles.

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The ESC has repeatedly looked at strategies to reduce CO₂ emissions and other "greenhouse gases". The Committee underlines that climate policy is a global policy. It feels the EU should enter into negotiations with the USA and Japan before the Kyoto Conference. The Economic and Social Committee believes that the scientific basis for the forecasts used by the Commission to draw up its climate policy objectives is narrow and should be extended, particularly in regard of the relationship between economic growth and energy consumption, the impact of technological innovations and the objectives for climate relevant gases other than CO₂. The ESC points out that climate policy cannot be implemented unless its objectives are integrated into other policy areas. As such more emphasis should be placed on transport policy. Taking into account the SAVE programme and the Altener programme the ESC believes that the action plan could be expanded to include arrangements of the kind already introduced by regulatory means in some Member States, such as the non-fossil fuel obligation, or the obligation to buy electricity generated by renewables. The ESC therefore believes that, if there is to be any significant reduction in CO₂ emissions, nuclear energy together with renewables will have to play key roles. However, the continued, or even expanded, use of nuclear energy requires solving problems of operating safety and waste disposal. The Economic and Social Committee would like to collaborate in drawing up the action plan to implement climate policy in the EU. ?

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In adopting the report by Mr Rolf LINKOHR (PSE, D), the European Parliament calls for a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases and a binding strategy with clear goals and a precise timetable. The European Union must make every effort at the Kyoto conference on climate change to advocate binding goals for the period beyond 2000, together with procedures to monitor the obligations entered into. Parliament also calls for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to be given priority over other energy policy goals. It urges the Commission to prepare specific proposals on controlling climate change and to make use of all the possibilities available to it to introduce a Community energy tax. Parallel to the above, Parliament has adopted a resolution on the Kyoto conference, prepared by its Committee on the Environment, approving the minimum goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 7.5% by 2005 and 15% by 2010. This goal should be the subject of a more binding commitment on the part of the Union, a commitment which will have to be guaranteed by the Commission and the governments of the Member States in the course of the Kyoto negotiations and implemented in the Union afterwards. ?