


# Procedure file

Basic information		
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	<a href="#">1997/2306(COS)</a>	Procedure completed
Renewable energy sources: strategy and action plan, energy efficiency, rational use. White paper		
Subject 3.60.05 Alternative and renewable energies		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ENER</b> Research, Technological Development and Energy	PSE <a href="#">ROTHE Mechtild</a>	22/01/1998
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development	PPE <a href="#">SCHIERHUBER Agnes</a>	18/03/1998
	<b>REGI</b> Regional Policy	GUE/NGL <a href="#">OJALA Outi</a>	05/02/1998
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	PSE <a href="#">GRAENITZ Ilona</a>	19/12/1997
Council of the European Union	Council configuration Energy	Meeting <a href="#">2092</a>	Date 11/05/1998

Key events			
26/11/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0599	Summary
29/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
11/05/1998	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
20/05/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
20/05/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0207/1998</a>	
16/06/1998	Debate in Parliament		
18/06/1998	Decision by Parliament	T4-0376/1998	Summary
18/06/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
06/07/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

<b>Technical information</b>	
Procedure reference	1997/2306(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/4/09631

<b>Documentation gateway</b>					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(1997)0599	26/11/1997	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		<a href="#">CES0633/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 214 10.07.1998, p. 0056</a>	29/04/1998	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0207/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0007</a>	20/05/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0376/1998 <a href="#">OJ C 210 06.07.1998, p. 0176-0215</a>	18/06/1998	EP	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		<a href="#">CDR0057/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 315 13.10.1998, p. 0005</a>	15/07/1998	CofR	
Follow-up document		COM(2001)0069	16/02/2001	EC	Summary

## Renewable energy sources: strategy and action plan, energy efficiency, rational use. White paper

OBJECTIVE: following the debates provoked by the Green Paper presented by the Commission in 1996, the White Paper aims to establish a Community strategy and action plan with a view to achieving a minimum penetration of 12% of renewable sources of energy in the European Union by 2010. CONTENT: the European Commission considers in its White Paper that renewable sources of energy can help to reduce dependence on imports and improve security of supplies. Positive consequences are also expected in terms of CO2 emissions (reduction in CO2 emissions by 402 million tonnes/year in 2010) and employment (creation of 500,000 to 900,000 jobs). At present, renewable sources of energy account for 6% of the total gross domestic energy consumption in the European Union. The European Union's objective is to double this figure by the year 2010. Major investments will be needed (in the order of ECU 95 billion for the period 1997-2010) if this object is to be attained. The action plan aims to ensure that renewable sources of energy have equal access to the markets without excessive financial constraint and therefore contains a list of priority measures which include: - non-discriminatory access to the electricity market; - fiscal and financial measures; - new initiatives in the field of bioenergy for transport, heat and electricity generation and, in particular, specific measures to increase the market share of biofuels, promote the use of biogas and develop the biomass markets; - the promotion of renewable sources of energy (such as solar energy) in the building industry, for both new and renovated buildings. At present, little importance is attached to renewable sources of energy in policies, programmes or the Community budget. The action plan aims to increase the awareness of those responsible for the various programmes and raise the profile of renewable sources of energy in the various European Union policies, such as environment, employment, competition and state aid, research, regional policy, the common agricultural policy and external relations (mainly via PHARE, TACIS and MEDA). Cooperation between the Member States needs to be strengthened if the objective laid down in the White Paper is to be attained (a proposal for a Council decision on the organization of this cooperation has already been submitted). Measures are also planned, mainly within the framework of the ALTENER programme, for targeted promotion, consumer information, European standards, improving the position of renewable sources of energy on the capital markets of the institutional and merchant banks and creating networks in the field of renewable sources of energy. The Commission also proposes to start a campaign to launch renewable sources of energy with a view to encouraging large-scale projects in various sectors. Several key-actions will be supported during this campaign: - installation of one million photovoltaic systems (500,000 for roofs and walls on the internal market and 500,000 for export in order to encourage decentralized electrification in developing countries); - 10 000 MW generated by large wind energy parks; - 10 000 MW generated by biomass installations; - integration on a pilot basis of renewable sources of energy in 100 communities, regions, towns, islands etc. The implementation of the strategy and the action plan will be monitored closely in order to measure the progress made in terms of the penetration of renewable sources of energy and improve coordination between the programmes and policies for which the Community and the Member States are responsible.?

## Renewable energy sources: strategy and action plan, energy efficiency, rational use. White paper

At the third conference on the Framework Convention on Climate Change in Kyoto in December 1997, the EU member states agreed to an 8% reduction in CO2 emissions, in relation to 1990 levels, by the middle of the next decade. Given the EU's current economic growth objectives

and its plan to achieve a similar but high standard of living in its different regions, the target for CO2 emission reductions will be achievable only if the contribution of renewable energies is expanded consistently. Rapporteur Mechthild ROTHE (PES, D) welcomes the White Paper and the Action Plan and considers the Commission's target of doubling the contribution of renewable energy to total energy consumption by 15% by 2010 as a minimum objective. She expects member states to give binding undertakings on national overall goals and targets for each type of energy. Ms ROTHE calls on the Commission to examine by the end of this year at the latest the suitability of national plans for achieving the Community objective and if necessary to initiate additional activities geared toward a minimum national increase of 7%. Ms ROTHE takes the view that the Commission's proposals to triple the use of biomass for energy purposes is not realistic and calls therefore for much greater efforts in the field of electric/thermal solar energy use. The Commission is also called on to submit by 31 December 1998 at the latest a proposal for a Community provision on inputs to the grid based on the right to input electricity from renewable energies at a nationally determined minimum price. The Commission should also undertake action in the field of integrating agricultural production for the production of electricity, heat and fuels.?

## Renewable energy sources: strategy and action plan, energy efficiency, rational use. White paper

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Adopting the report by Mrs Mechthild ROTHE (PSE, D) on the White Paper establishing a Community strategy and action plan for the use of renewable sources of energy, the European Parliament considered that the Commission's target of doubling the contribution of renewable sources of energy to total energy consumption by 2010 as a minimum objective and expects Member States to give binding undertakings for each type of energy. The European Parliament calls on the Commission to examine by the end of 1998 the suitability of national plans for achieving the Community objective and if necessary to initiate additional activities. The Commission is called upon to submit a new proposal for a Community energy-related taxation model by 30 June 1999. Parliament considers that the Commission's proposal to triple the use of biomass for energy purposes is unrealistic and calls, therefore, for much greater efforts in the field of solar energy. The Commission is also called upon to submit, by 31 December 1998, a proposal on inputs to the grid based on the right to feed in electricity from renewable energies at a nationally-determined minimum price. The Commission is also called upon to: - take action to promote the production of electricity generated by agricultural activities and an action programme to integrate the use of solar energy into buildings; - incorporate the measures set out in the Community strategy into the preparatory work involving the applicant countries with commensurate funds being made available under the PHARE programme; - regard the promotion of renewable energy sources as a priority issue during the forthcoming budgetary procedure and to enter sufficient funds for the implementation of the Community strategy right from the preliminary draft budget stage. Parliament calls for 'golden sun' awards (similar to the 'blue flag' award) to be made commensurate with the use of renewable energies by holiday hotels, resorts and districts. Finally, it calls on the Council, during a future review of the EU Treaty, to incorporate in the Treaty a chapter devoted to energy which takes account of the promotion of renewable sources of energy.?

## Renewable energy sources: strategy and action plan, energy efficiency, rational use. White paper

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This document presents the Communication from the Commission on the implementation of the Community Strategy and Action Plan on Renewable Energy Sources (1998-2000). In the White Paper the Commission undertook to produce every two years a Communication evaluating progress made in the Community and in Member States. The Commission should, if appropriate, recommend new guidelines and/or new actions if sufficient progress in the penetration of renewable sources of energy (RES) does to appear to be made. Progress on the penetration of RES has also to be analysed taking into account new developments in the EU Climate Change Strategy and the EU commitments in the protocol of Kyoto. EU objectives on reduction of GHG emissions by 8% in 2008-2012, with respect to the levels of 1990, will not be achieved unless further efforts are undertaken. First, on the demand side to reduce the gross inland consumption. Second, on the supply side to use energy sources which produce little or no GHG emissions, such as renewable energy sources. As regards this issue, the Commission intends to open a large debate on the basis of the recently adopted Green Paper on security of supply. The Green Paper is the response to an observable fact: Europe's growing future energy dependence. Ongoing discussions on sustainability at the Community and international level are of paramount importance for the development of RES. The contribution of RES to sustainability is largely accepted. The present Communication contains the first progress report on the implementation of the White Paper for a Community Strategy and Action Plan on Renewable Energy Sources. Since the publication of the White Paper, important policy developments have underlined the key role of renewable energy in ensuring sustainable energy supplies for the Community, reinforcing social and economic cohesion, developing European industry and contributing to job creation. Moreover, community support instruments have begun to enhance cross-fertilisation between Member States on successful policies, legislation, measures, programmes and innovative pioneer projects related to RES. Although these developments have already led to an increase of the shares of RES in the Community's total energy supply, their impact cannot be fully assessed at this early stage of the implementation of the Community Strategy. RES market penetration is, on average, growing in the EU-15 but it is not yet sufficient. The available statistics contain two main features: first, the undeniable take-off of wind energy and, second, the expansion rates, higher than the average, reached by those Member States with proactive renewable energy policies. In addition, the deployment of RES in communities (regions, islands and cities) is directly related to the presence of proactive local policies. In addition, the removal of legal and administrative barriers should be accompanied by innovative market instruments at Community level. This relates in particular to the fiscal sector. Since the nature of RES is to be decentralised and locally available, equal importance must be given to both technology improvements and non-technical barriers. Progress between 1997-2000 shows a modest growing deployment. Lastly, the Community Institutions have confirmed that the objective of 12% of RES in the energy mix by 2010, proposed in 1997 in the White Paper remains ambitious but realistic, provided that appropriate measures are taken and consolidated at an EU-wide level. It is clear that considerable extra efforts are needed in order to achieve this objective.?