




Procedure file

Basic information		
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	1997/0370(COD)	Procedure completed
ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)		
Subject 3.60.05 Alternative and renewable energies		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	DELE EP Delegation to Conciliation Committee		28/10/1999
		PPE-DE LANGEN Werner	
	Former committee responsible		
	ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy		29/07/1999
		PPE-DE LANGEN Werner	
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		22/01/1998
		PPE ROBLES PIQUER Carlos	
	Former committee for opinion		
Council of the European Union	BUDG Budgets		03/02/1998
		GUE/NGL SEPPÄNEN Esko	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection		04/02/1998
		ELDR DYBKJÆR Lone	
	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Agriculture and Fisheries	2240	24/01/2000
	Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2210	28/10/1999
	Culture	2195	28/06/1999
	Energy	2132	13/11/1998
	Energy	2092	11/05/1998

Key events			
18/11/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0550	Summary
16/02/1998	Committee referral announced in		

	Parliament, 1st reading		
11/05/1998	Debate in Council	2092	
13/11/1998	Debate in Council	2132	
23/02/1999	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
23/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A4-0085/1999	
10/03/1999	Debate in Parliament		
11/03/1999	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0186/1999	Summary
05/05/1999	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
06/05/1999	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T4-0413/1999	Summary
21/05/1999	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1999)0212	Summary
28/06/1999	Council position published	07122/1/1999	Summary
23/07/1999	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
22/09/1999	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
22/09/1999	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0016/1999	
05/10/1999	Debate in Parliament		
06/10/1999	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0042/1999	Summary
28/10/1999	Parliament's amendments rejected by Council		
11/11/1999	Formal meeting of Conciliation Committee		Summary
09/12/1999	Final decision by Conciliation Committee		
23/12/1999	Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs	3633/1999	
20/01/2000	Report tabled for plenary, 3rd reading	A5-0011/2000	
24/01/2000	Decision by Council, 3rd reading		
02/02/2000	Debate in Parliament		
03/02/2000	Decision by Parliament, 3rd reading	T5-0033/2000	Summary
28/02/2000	Final act signed		
28/02/2000	End of procedure in Parliament		
30/03/2000	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0370(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation

Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175-p1; Rules of Procedure EP 52-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	CODE/5/12200

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(1997)0550	18/11/1997	EC	Summary
Committee of the Regions: opinion		CDR0056/1998 OJ C 315 13.10.1998, p. 0001	15/07/1998	CofR	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0085/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0005	23/02/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0186/1999 OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0190-0268	11/03/1999	EP	Summary
Reconsultation		SEC(1999)0581	28/04/1999	EC	
Text adopted by Parliament confirming position adopted at 1st reading		T4-0413/1999 OJ C 279 01.10.1999, p. 0252-0268	06/05/1999	EP	Summary
Modified legislative proposal		COM(1999)0212	21/05/1999	EC	Summary
Council position		07122/1/1999 OJ C 243 27.08.1999, p. 0047	28/06/1999	CSL	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position		SEC(1999)1096	16/07/1999	EC	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0016/1999 OJ C 107 13.04.2000, p. 0005	22/09/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0042/1999 OJ C 107 13.04.2000, p. 0029-0064	06/10/1999	EP	Summary
Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading		COM(1999)0560 OJ C 056 29.02.2000, p. 0024 E	04/11/1999	EC	Summary
Joint text approved by Conciliation Committee co-chairs		3633/1999	23/12/1999	CSL/EP	
Report tabled for plenary by Parliament delegation to Conciliation Committee, 3rd reading		A5-0011/2000 OJ C 309 27.10.2000, p. 0004	20/01/2000	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 3rd reading		T5-0033/2000 OJ C 309 27.10.2000, p. 0012-0060	03/02/2000	EP	Summary

Additional information

European Commission	EUR-Lex
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Final act

Decision 2000/646 OJ L 079 30.03.2000, p. 0001 Summary

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

OBJECTIVE: as part of the framework programme for energy 1998-2002 (CNS97302), to implement a specific multiannual programme to promote renewable energy resources in the Community (ALTENER II).

SUBSTANCE: the Commission proposes continuing the ALTENER programme, the main objectives of which are as follows:

- to help to create the necessary conditions for the implementation of a Community action plan for renewable energy sources;
- to encourage private and public investment in the production and use of energy from renewable sources.

The ALTENER II programme, for which the Commission proposes a budget of ECU 81.1 m for 1998-2002, will comprise six types of project and measure:

- 1) studies and other actions intended to implement and complement Community measures taken to develop the potential of renewable energy sources, e.g. sectoral and market strategies, the development of norms and standards, grouped procurement and legislation;
- 2) pilot actions aimed at creating or extending infrastructures and instruments for the development of renewable energy sources in: local and regional planning; the tools for planning, design and evaluation; new financial and market instruments; information; education and training;
- 3) measures proposed by the Commission to encourage the dissemination of information (exchanges of experience and know-how; establishment of a centralized system for collecting and circulating information);
- 4) measures to encourage the dissemination of information proposed by entities other than the Commission (e.g. universities, public bodies, private organizations, etc.);
- 5) new targeted actions facilitating the market penetration of renewable energy sources and encouraging investment in the following areas: biomass; thermal and photovoltaic solar systems; passive and active solar systems in buildings; small-scale hydroelectric projects; wind power; geothermal energy;
- 6) new actions intended to implement and monitor the Community strategy for renewable energy sources (implementation of an action plan, improvement of synergy between actions, monitoring of progress).

The overall aim of all these measures is to attain the priority objectives of the Union, namely: to limit carbon dioxide emissions, to increase the share of renewable energy sources in the energy balance, to reduce dependence on imported energy, to achieve security of supply and to promote cohesion and local and regional development.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

The Committee approved, subject to a number of amendments, the Commission proposals for Council decisions concerning two multi-annual programmes (1998-2002) for the promotion of renewable energy sources (Rapporteur: Mr ROBLES PIQUER (PPE,E)) (cooperation procedure, 1st reading; it should be noted that codecision will be applicable to the programme after the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty). The proposal is part of the multi-annual framework programme for actions in the energy sector. The latter (Altener II) has a forerunner in the first Altener programme, which expired on 31 December 1997. For the sake of continuity in Community policy, Altener II had to be adopted for a provisional period of two years by means of a Council Decision of 18 May 1998. It should be noted that with 40% Altener II accounts for most of the funding available for a single programme under the energy framework programme. In connection with the Altener II programme, the Energy Committee would like the Commission to look into the possibility of coordinating policies and initiatives in the sphere of energy saving and energy efficiency in order to develop potential synergies and avoid the duplication of effort. The committee reiterated Parliament's call of last May for a Charter on Renewable Energies (EURENEW) to be drawn up. Altener II should contribute to achieving the Community objective of replacing, by the year 2010, the equivalent of 15% of the demand for primary energy by renewable energies. One of the objectives of Altener II should be the development of mechanisms to increase the competitiveness of renewable energies and allow faster coordinated market penetration of sustainable energy technologies. The committee further emphasizes the potential of renewable energies to create new jobs and encourage innovation, with due regard to the interests of SMEs. The committee insists finally on the need to promote the export of renewable energy technology through its inclusion in the energy and cooperation areas of external policy and calls for studies to complement the measures taken by the Member States, and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with an aim to develop the potential of renewable energy.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

The Parliament adopted the text of the Commission's proposal subject to a number of amendments. Parliament's rapporteur was Mr Carlos ROBLES PIQUER (EPP, Spain). A number of the amendments emphasise the importance of renewables in contributing to cleaning up the environment, as well as their job creating potential. The Parliament stresses the importance of establishing the bases for the development of new instruments and mechanisms which will allow faster co-ordinated market penetration of all sustainable energy technologies. One amendment relating to targeted actions emphasises the need for actions to support the transition stage between demonstration and marketing.?

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam on 01/05/99, the European Parliament confirmed as its first reading under codecision procedure its vote of 11/03/99 on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision adopting a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community - ALTENER II.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

The amended proposal takes into account most of the amendments adopted by the Parliament that strengthen and clarify the initial proposals, in particular for what concerns the basic objectives of the programme and the implementation of the White Paper for a Community Strategy and an Action Plan to 2010 'Energy for the Future: Renewable Sources of Energy'. The main concerns of the Parliament coincide with those of the Commission.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

The Council's common position takes up either wholly or partially 16 amendments adopted by the European Parliament in its first reading and accepted by the Commission. On several points, the common position simplifies and updates the Commission's proposal in setting it clearly in the context of the Multiannual Energy Framework Programme for the energy sector adopted in Council Decision 1999/21/EC. Furthermore, the common position adds a reference to the financial framework for the implementation of the ALTENER Programme of 74 million euros (29.6 million euros for 1998-99 - and 44.4 million euros for 2000-2002 § this latter amount shall be reviewed if it is not consistent with the financial perspective for that period). The programme will be reviewed, bearing in mind the priority given to activities undertaken in the energy field, before the end of the year 2000.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

The common position is largely in line with and supportive of the Commission's amended proposal. In several instances, the common position streamlines and updates the Commission's proposal, as well as setting it clearly in the context of the Multiannual Energy Framework Programme.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

The Committee adopted the draft recommendation for second reading regarding the Council's common position on the multi-annual programme (1998-2002): for the promotion of renewable energy sources ALTENER (rapporteur: Werner Langen (EPP-ED, D)).

This proposal under the codecision procedure is part of the framework programme for actions in the energy sector. Altener II had to be adopted for a provisional period of two years by means of a Council Decision of 18 May 1998.

Altener II accounts for 40% of the funds available for a single programme under the energy framework programme. In connection with the Altener II programme the Committee reiterated Parliament's call for a Charter on Renewable Energies (EURENEW) to be drawn up. The financial framework for the Altener programme should be EUR 81,1 million for the period 1998-2002 (where the Council had proposed only 74 million) and 51,5 million for the period 2000-2002. Subject to amendments, the Committee will recommend that Parliament approves the common positions.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

In approving the Council's common position, Parliament passed a number of amendments designed to promote the export of renewable, restore the 81.1 million EURO budget as originally proposed by the Commission, and to reaffirm Parliament's support for a Charter on Renewable Energy (Eurenew) to be drawn up. There was also an amendment regarding improving the involvement of the European Parliament in view of the new procedures established under Council Decision 99/468/EC. Parliament's Rapporteur was Mr. Werner Langen (D, EPP/ED).

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

The Commission accepted either partially or in their totality seven of the eight amendments proposed by the Parliament, and, in particular, that which sought to reinstate the budgetary allocation initially proposed by the Commission, i.e. EUR 81.1 million. These amendments have been incorporated in the new amended proposal.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

Since the current programmes will expire at the end of this year and the Council cannot accept all of the amendments adopted (8), the Finnish Presidency decided to convene the Conciliation Committee in the near future. The constituent meeting of the delegation took place on 20 October 1999. As regards the substance, the disagreement with the Council appears to revolve around the budget issue, since Parliament is proposing that the funding for ALTENER II be increased by EUR 7.1 m.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources (1998-2002)

The European Parliament approves the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee regarding the adoption of the ALTENER Programme.