


Fiche de procédure

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1998/2102(INI)	Procedure completed
Opportunities for exporting renewable energy technologies		
Subject 3.60.05 Alternative and renewable energies		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur
	RELA External Economic Relations		Appointed 22/01/1998
			PSE ELCHLEPP Dietrich
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion
	ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy		Appointed

Key events			
15/05/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/11/1998	Vote in committee		Summary
24/11/1998	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0477/1998	
15/01/1999	Debate in Parliament		
15/01/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0041/1999	Summary
15/01/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
14/04/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2102(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RELA/4/10057

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0477/1998 OJ C 104 14.04.1999, p. 0004	24/11/1998	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0041/1999 OJ C 104 14.04.1999, p. 0177-0188	15/01/1999	EP	Summary

Opportunities for exporting renewable energy technologies

'Support for renewable energies as a new objective of external economic policy is a decisive instrument for Europe in securing growth, competitiveness, employment and protection of the environment', according to Mr ELCHLEPP (PSE,D), whose report on the external prospects of the EU in exporting renewable energy technology and services was adopted unanimously by the Committee. The committee calls on the Commission to develop a long-term European strategy to encourage the export of technology for the utilisation of renewable energies. An essential instrument for the implementation of such a strategy should be the creation of a 'European Export Council for Renewable Energies', on the lines of the US Export Council on Renewable Energies, whose role would include improving the competitive situation of SMEs through effective start-up aid to help gain access to third countries' markets. It would also, encourage the foundation of export cooperatives among SMEs in the EU , linking these up with comparable establishments in the target countries. The committee pointed to the rapidly increasing global need for renewable energy technology (the overall world market for renewable energy technologies amounted in 1995 to ca. ECU 29 billion) and underlined the contribution which a cheap, decentralised energy supply from renewable sources could make to social, cultural and economic development in the Third World. It further noted the competitive advantages currently enjoyed by European producers and hence the more favourable export position in competition with the USA and Japan. In contrast , the lack of effective aid for exports, in particular for SMEs was criticised. Support for renewable energies will help the EU fulfill its obligation to achieve the objectives of Kyoto and is highly desirable from the point of view of security of supply, (the dependence of Member States on energy imports will probably increase to 70% by the year 2020). Thus, as well as avoiding the risk of political blackmail, it will relieve the burden on the EU-s balance of payments. The committee believes that the current funding of the EU energy programmes is quite inadequate in view of the importance of promoting renewable energies. It calls for action to ensure that there is a separate budgetary provision for renewable energies in the EU-s energy support programmes, as well as in structural and ACP aid. The PHARE, TACIS and MEDA support programmes should also be adapted to take this need into consideration. The European Investment Bank is called upon to grant cheap loans below the existing minimum loan threshold (e.g. by means of collective loans) for SMEs involved in projects in the field of renewable energy in third countries.?

Opportunities for exporting renewable energy technologies

The resolution drafted by Dietrich Elchlepp (D, PES) on the new prospects of the European Union in exporting technology and services for the use of renewable energy was adopted by the European Parliament without amendment. In its report, the Parliament calls on the Commission to draw up a long-term strategy to encourage the trans-sectoral export of technology for the utilisation of renewable energies, including the entire export chain. Further to this, the Parliament proposes the creation of an active and effective "European Export Council for Renewable Energies", with a particular view to helping the competitiveness of SMEs. The Parliament also seeks convincing funding for such a Council and for associated support measures, to be borne jointly by the EU and industrial associations in the renewables sector. In the context of EU cooperation with third countries, the European Parliament urges the Commission to encourage partner countries to give strategic policy priority to renewable energies. Here again, the Parliament calls for additional funding for such cooperation and export measures, and for separate budgetary provision to be made for renewable energies within various existing EU programmes. The Parliament also requests the provision of information services relating to renewable energies for Third World countries. It lends support to the positive proposals on renewable energies made in the Commission's White Paper, in particular the one million solar roofs programme, which it would like to see promptly budgeted. The report also details various other means of support for renewable energies exports - training support for SMEs; - cooperation with the European Investment Bank, the European Development Fund, Member States' foreign chambers of trade, energy supply firms and European industrial associations to achieve innovative financial instruments to encourage export of renewable energies; - encouraging debtor countries to take on programmes in this field by writing off part of their debts. Finally, in the context of EU foreign trade and development policy, the report calls for an initiative programme to use renewable energies as a means of supplying electricity to rural areas of Third World countries in order to stem the flight from the land.?