


# Procedure file

Basic information	
COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	1998/2112(COS)
Energy efficiency in the Community: strategy for the rational use of energy	Procedure completed
Subject	
3.60 Energy policy	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	<b>ENER</b> Research, Technological Development and Energy		23/06/1998
		PSE <a href="#">STOCKMANN Ulrich</a>	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	<b>AGRI</b> Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	<b>REGI</b> Regional Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	<b>ENVI</b> Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union			

Key events			
18/05/1998	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1998)0246	Summary
15/06/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/02/1999	Vote in committee		Summary
23/02/1999	Committee report tabled for plenary	<a href="#">A4-0086/1999</a>	
10/03/1999	Debate in Parliament		
11/03/1999	Decision by Parliament	T4-0194/1999	Summary
11/03/1999	End of procedure in Parliament		
21/06/1999	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1998/2112(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/4/10080

### Documentation gateway

Non-legislative basic document		COM(1998)0246	18/05/1998	EC	Summary
Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report		<a href="#">CES1143/1998</a> <a href="#">OJ C 407 28.12.1998, p. 0176</a>	09/09/1998	ESC	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A4-0086/1999</a> <a href="#">OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0005</a>	23/02/1999	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0194/1999 <a href="#">OJ C 175 21.06.1999, p. 0192-0292</a>	11/03/1999	EP	Summary

## Energy efficiency in the Community: strategy for the rational use of energy

**PURPOSE:** to present the initial elements of a new strategy for achieving energy efficiency in the EC. **CONTENT:** The underlying assumption behind this Commission communication is that, whilst energy intensity has decreased slowly but surely over recent years, it is essential to take the necessary steps to ensure that energy efficiency is substantially improved, and reflected in a significantly reduced level of energy intensity. The Commission considers that the focus of this strategy over the next years has to be the full realisation of the significant economic potential for the improvement in energy efficiency which exists in the EU, estimated to be, by 2010, as much as 18% of 1995 energy consumption. The role of Member States and of regional and local authorities will be crucial in this context as much of the action on energy efficiency takes place at national level. In parallel with action at Community level, the Commission therefore considers it important to encourage Member States to develop their own national strategies. In this context, consideration will need to be given to setting an objective to reduce energy intensity at Community and national levels, as well as in different sectoral activities. In its communication, the Commission: 1) highlights the potential for improving energy efficiency between 1998 and 2010 - estimated to amount to 18% of final annual energy consumption for 1995; 2) examines the imperfections, barriers and shortcomings which have so far prevented this potential from being realised - these include energy prices which do not reflect energy costs, lack of or incomplete information, institutional and legal, technical and financial barriers; 3) reviews existing measures for energy efficiency and concludes that there is a need to better focus and coordinate Community and Member States measures, to improve and strengthen existing measures, to facilitate exchanges of experience and best practice, select priority areas of action and encourage energy efficiency potential outside the Union through international cooperation; 4) sets out the elements of a strategy for the rational use of energy, which comprise: - building on existing Community energy efficiency initiatives; - closer monitoring and evaluation of progress by the Commission; - increased cooperation with a wide variety of actors throughout the Community; - awareness-raising by Member States; - better coordination of actions by means of a special energy efficiency forum; - improving the profile of promotion of energy efficiency. The Commission concludes that, if a basic package of measures such as those which it proposes, is implemented in an effective and coordinated fashion, it would have a measurable impact on reducing energy intensity in the Community over and above the trend of recent years (-0.6% p.a.). Against the background of expected continuing low energy prices, the expected additional annual reduction of 1% resulting from such measures must be regarded as an achievement. In presenting this document, the Commission also wishes to prepare the ground for the adoption of coordinated policies and actions which will help the EU to meet its commitment, undertaken at Kyoto, to reduce CO2 emissions. It also represents a first step towards the production by the Commission of an Action Plan for Energy Efficiency.?

## Energy efficiency in the Community: strategy for the rational use of energy

Member States should commit themselves to binding national overall targets for improving energy efficiency and draw up guidelines by energy type and economic sector, according to the report adopted by the Committee, in which Mr STOCKMANN (PSE,D) examines the Commission Communication on energy efficiency in the European Community. According to the report, the current annual improvement in energy efficiency of 0.6% is not enough to achieve the targets agreed in Kyoto. Annual efficiency gains of 2.5% by 2010 would be required instead. The Commission is called upon to start, by the end of 2001, to evaluate national plans for energy savings at three-yearly intervals and to encourage Member States to initiate additional activities and information campaigns aimed mostly at young people. The committee welcomes the Commission's intention to develop guidelines for the renovation of existing buildings with the aim of increased energy efficiency and calls once again on the Commission to put forward firm proposals for an EU-wide energy tax. Greater consideration should be given to the energy efficiency dimension in transport planning and the regulations governing agricultural, Structural and Cohesion Funds should be supplemented by directives to promote increased energy efficiency. Finally, energy efficiency should be treated as a priority in future budgetary procedures and sufficient resources - at least equivalent to those originally proposed by the Commission for the SAVE II programme - should be set aside for implementing the Union's strategy in this area. ?

## Energy efficiency in the Community: strategy for the rational use of energy

The Parliament approved unamended its resolution on rational energy use which was drafted by Mr. Ulrich Stockmann (PES, D). The

Parliament calls on the Commission to give priority to energy efficient programmes in future energy projects. It urges it to draw up guideline targets by energy type and economic sector. It also calls on the Commission to : - put forward firm proposals for a Union wide energy tax which will take into account the internalisation of external energy consumption costs; - give greater consideration to the energy efficiency dimension in connection with spatial and transport planning (e.g. by means of simulations of traffic flows in conurbations and the optimisation of transport links using different modes of transport); - back proposals to shift traffic flows from energy-intensive to energy efficient modes of transport and to support appropriate pilot projects; - develop a programme for promoting energy service companies (ESCOs) in connection with energy market liberalisation, particularly as regards equal treatment with pure energy producers, for instance where the granting of credit by third parties is concerned.?