



Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2008/2214(INI)	Procedure completed
Follow-up of the energy efficiency national action plans: a first assessment		
Subject 3.60.08 Energy efficiency		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		24/09/2008
		PPE-DE GYÜRK András	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	REGI Regional Development		05/11/2008
		PSE FERNANDES Emanuel Jardim	
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Energy and Transport	PIEBALGS Andris	

Key events			
22/01/2008	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2008)0011	Summary
23/09/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/01/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
27/01/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0030/2009	
18/02/2009	Debate in Parliament		
19/02/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/02/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0064/2009	Summary
19/02/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2214(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54-p4; Rules of Procedure EP 54

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/6/64701

Documentation gateway					
Follow-up document		COM(2008)0011	23/01/2008	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE416.355	26/11/2008	EP	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE415.006	05/12/2008	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE416.610	17/12/2008	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0030/2009	27/01/2009	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0064/2009	19/02/2009	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2009)2154/3	26/06/2009	EC	

Follow-up of the energy efficiency national action plans: a first assessment

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy adopted an own-initiative report by András GYŰRK (EPP-ED, HU) in response to the Commission Communication on the follow-up of the energy efficiency National Action Plans (a first assessment).

The report welcomes the action plans produced by the Member States but notes with concern that the delays in submitting the plans and the contents of a number of National Action Plans point to deficiencies which might endanger the attainment of the EU's energy efficiency and climate protection objectives.

Member States are called upon to increase their level of ambition and turn their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs) into a practical tool for delivery of their energy efficiency targets under Directive 2006/32/EC and, in particular, to improve energy efficiency by at least 20% by 2020. They are also called upon to go beyond the minimum national indicative energy saving target of 9% by 2016 in Directive 2006/32/EC and set clear interim targets to achieve the final target.

MEPs regard it as extremely important that the National Action Plans be adapted to geographical, climatic, economic structure and consumer characteristics, which can differ widely between regions. They also consider it essential that the National Action Plans be prepared with the substantive involvement of local and regional governments, civil organisations and economic partners in order to ensure better grassroots implementation. In this context, they stress the need for the development of best practices and synergies and the organisation of information exchange and coordination of the diverse and dispersed actors in the energy efficiency sector.

According to MEPs, the National Action Plans should pay special attention to poverty caused by rising energy prices and guarantee suitable protection for those at risk of poverty. The Plans should also place special emphasis on how governments intend to promote and support energy efficiency investments on the part of SMEs, which have an important role to play in improving energy efficiency but do not have the same capacity to comply with legislation or new standards in the energy sector.

Stressing the strategic role of EU public authorities, in particular at regional and local level, the report calls on the Member States to: (i) incorporate, in their existing structures for contacts between government agencies and the public, information on energy efficiency, best practice in those areas and consumer rights which have been established in the energy and climate sector; (ii) develop long-term energy efficiency awareness campaigns, focusing on efficiency in buildings, both public and private, and also on convincing the public that energy efficiency can bring them real savings.

MEPs call on the Member States and the regions in particular to use Structural Funds to set up on their territories thematic networks in the framework of the Concerted Action provided for by the 2008 Intelligent Energy Europe Work Programme.

The Commission is called upon, inter alia, to:

- support the compulsory introduction of smart metering systems;
- examine possible ways of reinforcing public procurement procedures with a set of energy efficiency conditions, to be achieved by giving priority to 'green' products in public contracts;
- study the Community resources dedicated to research and development in order to boost the resources dedicated to improving energy efficiency in the next seven-year financial perspective;
- encourage those Member States which have not yet adopted their national energy efficiency plan to implement decisions which have been taken in that area.

Follow-up of the energy efficiency national action plans: a first assessment

The European Parliament adopted by 616 votes to 24, with 17 abstentions, a resolution on the follow-up of the energy efficiency National Action Plans (first assessment), following the European Commission's communication on this issue.

The resolution welcomes the action plans produced by the Member States but notes with concern that the delays in submitting the plans and the contents of a number of National Action Plans point to deficiencies which might endanger the attainment of the EU's energy efficiency and climate protection objectives.

Legally binding targets for energy efficiency: the Parliament calls on the Commission to make energy efficiency and energy savings the cornerstone of the Energy Policy for Europe and urges it to make the 20% energy efficiency target by 2020 legally binding. The Member States are called upon to increase their level of ambition and turn their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs) into a practical tool for delivery of their energy efficiency targets under Directive 2006/32/EC on energy end-use efficiency and energy services.

More ambitious interim targets: the Parliament also calls on the Member States to go beyond the minimum national indicative energy saving target of 9% by 2016 in Directive 2006/32/EC and to set clear interim targets to achieve the final target. Moreover, the Commission is called upon to review the Directive on energy services in 2012.

Energy efficiency requirements of buildings: stressing that residential buildings are among the most energy-wasteful sectors, MEPs urge that financial support at both national and Community levels for the energy performance of buildings be increased. They encourage Member States and the regions to use Structural funds to set up on their territories thematic networks in the framework of the Concerted Action provided for by the 2008 Intelligent Energy Europe Work Programme, in order to be informed about practices of other EU regions as regards the efficient use of energy.

The National Action Plans should set as a priority the improvement of the envelope quality of dwellings where low income people reside, taking into account the fact that unpredictable fuel prices will seriously aggravate the economic situation of these households and may create serious social problems.

Developing action plans: MEPs regard it as extremely important that the National Action Plans be adapted to geographical, climatic, economic structure and consumer characteristics, which can differ widely between regions. Moreover, the plans should pay special attention to poverty caused by rising energy prices and guarantee suitable protection for those at risk of poverty.

MEPs also consider it indispensable that the National Action Plans be prepared with the substantive involvement of local and regional governments, civil organisations and economic partners in order to ensure better grassroots implementation. In this context, they stress the need for the development of best practices and synergies and the organisation of information exchange and coordination of the diverse and dispersed actors in the energy efficiency sector.

Role of SMEs: MEPs believe that SMEs have an important role to play in improving energy efficiency but that they do not have the same capacity to comply with legislation or new standards in the energy sector. They consider, therefore, that the facilities which will be created by the Small Business Act should handle information and contacts with SMEs concerning energy efficiency.

Informing consumers and raising awareness: stressing the strategic role of EU public authorities, in particular at regional and local level, the report calls on the Member States to: (i) incorporate, in their existing structures for contacts between government agencies and the public, information on energy efficiency, best practice in those areas and consumer rights which have been established in the energy and climate sector; (ii) develop long-term energy efficiency awareness campaigns, focusing on efficiency in buildings, both public and private, and also on convincing the public that energy efficiency can bring them real savings.

The Commission is called upon, inter alia, to:

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