

E U R O P E A N E C O N O M I C A R E A

J O I N T P A R L I A M E N T A R Y C O M M I T T E E

39th Meeting
27 November 2012, Brussels, Belgium

RESOLUTION

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 39th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Brussels
on 27 November 2012

on

Resolution on **The future of the EU Energy policy and its implications for the EEA**

Co-rapporteurs: Mr Harry Quaderer (Independent, Liechtenstein)
Mr Paul Rübzig (EPP, Austria)

adopted unanimously

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, and in particular to Article 24 and Annex IV thereof,
- B. having regard to the Commission Communication 'Energy Roadmap 2050' (COM(2011) 885),
- C. having regard to the Commission Communication 'A Roadmap for moving to competitive low carbon economy in 2050' (COM(2011) 112),
- D. having regard to the Commission Communication 'Energy 2020. A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy' (COM(2010) 639),
- E. having regard to the Commission Communication 'Single Market Act II. Together for new growth' (COM(2012) 573),

- F. having regard to the Commission proposal for a Regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility (COM(2011) 665),
- G. having regard to the Commission proposal for a Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1364/2006/EC (COM(2011) 658),
- H. having regard to the Commission proposal for a Regulation on safety of offshore oil and gas prospecting, exploration and production activities (COM(2011) 688),
- I. having regard to the Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC,
- J. having regard to the Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency, amending Directives 2009/125/EC and 2010/30/EU and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC,
- K. having regard to the Directive 2006/32/EC on energy end-use efficiency and energy services and repealing Council Directive 93/76/EEC
- L. having regard to the Directive 2009/125/EC on establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products (recast),
- M. having regard to the European Parliament legislative resolution of 11 September 2012 on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy efficiency and repealing Directives 2004/8/EC and 2006/32/EC (COM(2011)0370 – C7-0168/2011 – 2011/0172(COD)),
- N. having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 15 March 2012 on a Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050 (P7_TA(2012)0086),
- O. having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 12 June 2012 on Engaging in energy policy cooperation beyond our borders: A strategic approach to secure, sustainable and competitive energy supply (P7_TA(2012)0238),
- P. having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 20 January 2011 on a sustainable EU policy for the High North (P7_TA(2011)0024),
- Q. having regard to the Conclusions of the 37th meeting of the EEA Council Brussels, 14 May 2012,
- R. having regard to the EEA Consultative Committee resolution and report of 13 May 2011 on Innovation in the Energy Field,

I. The EU Energy Policy and the EEA

1. Considers that the EEA EFTA States are important partners of the European Union (EU) in energy matters, contributing to the diversification of its supply sources and routes, enhancing security of supply and supporting sustainable production and consumption;
2. Takes the view that the European Economic Area offers a cooperation framework in energy matters, beneficial both to the EU and to the EEA EFTA States;
3. Underlines the importance of Norway as a major supplier of energy to the EU, resulting in more than half of the EU supplies being produced within the European Economic Area; highlights the importance of a regular energy dialogue between the EU and Norway;
4. Notes the progress made on energy issues in the context of accession negotiations with Iceland;
5. Calls on the EEA Council to put energy policy issues on its agenda and to discuss how to enhance cooperation between the EU and the EEA EFTA States in order to reach common, ambitious goals with regard to climate change and sustainable development, increased security of energy supply, and a more efficient internal energy market; considers that innovation and cooperation in technology development in the energy field should be a key priority for the EU and the EEA EFTA cooperation in the future;

II. The future of the EU Energy Policy

6. Emphasises the need to achieve the agreed EU targets for 2020 with regard to greenhouse gas emissions (20% reduction), energy efficiency (20% saving), renewable energy sources (20% share of overall EU energy consumption);
7. Notes the EU Energy Roadmap 2050 for an ambitious energy policy for Europe; welcomes the inclusion of 'energy' as a Single Market Act II key action to support growth, employment and confidence in the Single Market;
8. Takes the view that the EU's long term energy targets are compatible with the commitments taken by the EEA EFTA states; highlights the ambitious goals by the Norwegian government to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30% until 2020, aiming at carbon neutrality by 2050, and by the Icelandic government in terms of reduction in use of fossil fuel to further increase the already achieved share of 67% final energy consumption coming from renewable energy resources;
9. Notes the commitments taken by the EEA states for implementing policies and measures to comply with their international commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and other relevant international agreements;
10. Welcomes the participation of the EEA EFTA states in the EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), including the extension of aviation in the EU ETS to the EEA EFTA

States; calls on all parties to the EEA Agreement to complete various tasks this year in order to ensure that the system would be operational throughout the entire EEA as of 1 January 2013;

III. The Internal Energy Market

11. Considers that the inclusion of EEA EFTA States in the internal energy market is of strategic importance for the EU;
12. Supports the aim of completing the internal market for energy by 2014, so as to allow gas and electricity to flow freely;
13. Is concerned about the delays in the transposition and implementation of the Third Energy Package in the EU Member States which cast doubt on keeping to the 2014 target for the completion of the internal energy market, as set by the European Council meeting of 4 February 2011;
14. Urges the EU Member States to correctly implement the Third Energy Market Package legislation, particularly rules governing unbundling of networks and the functioning of retail markets as well as the rules strengthening the independence of national regulators;
15. Calls for a swift incorporation of the Third Energy Package into the EEA Agreement;
16. Highlights the important work of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) and the European Network(s) for Transmission System Operators (ENTSOs) for establishing an internal energy market, in particular their efforts to exchange best practice and encourage cooperation, as well as to assist national regulatory authorities; welcomes the participation of the EEA EFTA States in ACER and the ENTSOs.

IV. Energy infrastructure

17. Welcomes the European Commission's proposal to include the following priority corridors: the Northern Seas offshore grid, the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan in electricity, the Baltic Energy Market Interconnection Plan in gas; and calls on their swift implementation;
18. Notes that a financial contribution of EUR €9.12 bn has been foreseen in the Connecting Europe Facility to promote the completion of priority energy infrastructures;
19. Underlines the importance of investing in the modernisation of the energy infrastructure in the coming years both in the EU as well as in the EEA EFTA States; considers that significant public and private investment is required to modernise the energy infrastructure in the coming years;

20. Invites the EU and the EEA EFTA States to cooperate more in order to secure the necessary public and private financing for energy infrastructure investments; calls on both sides to explore the feasibility of joint innovative large scale infrastructure investment schemes;

V. Renewables

21. Welcomes the incorporation of the Renewables Directive into the EEA Agreement; notes the ongoing work on a European Renewable Energy Strategy post-2020;
22. Commends the very first cross-border support scheme for renewables in the form of a common green certificate system, which is currently operated by Norway and Sweden;
23. Underlines that Norway and Iceland are leading producers of renewable energy; agrees that the Northern Seas are an area of great potential for developing large-scale offshore wind power; welcomes the political declaration on the North Seas Countries' Offshore Grid Initiative with the objective to coordinate the offshore wind and infrastructure developments in the North Seas;
24. Highlights the cooperation between the EU and the EEA EFTA States in the area of developing renewable energy sources, notably through research projects under the EU Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme;

VI. Energy efficiency

25. Stresses the importance of energy efficiency as a means of reducing carbon emissions; highlights that energy efficiency measures lead to job creation, economic savings, increased security of supply and competitiveness;
26. Notes the specific situation of Norway and Iceland as regards to energy efficiency due to the high proportions of renewable energy;
27. Notes that the Directive on Energy End-Use Efficiency and Energy Services has not been incorporated into the EEA Agreement; calls on an appropriate incorporation of the new Energy Efficiency Directive into the EEA Agreement;
28. Welcomes the incorporation of the Framework Directive on Ecodesign into the EEA agreement; welcomes swift incorporation of the Energy Labelling Directive into the EEA Agreement; calls for work that can facilitate reductions in energy and resource use while enabling greater recycling;

VII. Nordic Cooperation and the High North

29. Highlights the Nordic energy market as a model of an integrated regional market through cooperation between national governments, regulators and transmission system operators;

30. Underlines the importance of developments in the High North region, i.e. the Barents Sea area and Arctic region, for the EEA, both with regard to climate change issues and security of energy supply; supports enhancing cooperation on energy issues in the Arctic;
31. Agrees on the need to respond to the increased risks related to offshore oil and gas exploration which have become especially clear in the aftermath of large-scale accidents;
32. Notes the ongoing work on the European Commission's proposal for a Regulation on the safety of offshore oil and gas prospection, exploration and production activities;

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33. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the EEA Joint Committee.