Resolution on external aspects of energy security

2009/2532(RSP) - 17/09/2009 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate which took place during the sitting on the same date, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on external aspects of energy security.

The resolution had been tabled by the EPP, Greens/ALE, S-D, ECR and ALDE groups.

It notes that **energy security constitutes an essential component of the overall security**, stability and prosperity of the EU, for which, however, there is still no basis under the Treaties. The lack of a genuine and effective common European external energy security policy undermines the coherence and credibility of the EU's external action.

Under these circumstances, Parliament looks to the Council, the Commission and Member States to display together stronger strategic leadership in establishing a genuine common European external energy security policy as called for in its resolution of 26 September 2007. It welcomes the measures on diversification and improving the EU's energy security proposed by the Commission in the Second Strategic Energy Review, but feels that speedy action to implement them are needed, whilst keeping Parliament fully informed.

Parliament stressed the importance of the following:

- more investment in renewable and low-carbon energy and energy efficiency, which should be a central part of the Energy Action Plan for 2010-2014;
- more efforts to anticipate potential problems in energy supplies in order to avoid future disruption by developing, inter alia , the effectiveness of the Network of Energy Security Correspondents (NESCO), and a review of existing early-warning mechanisms, NESCO and other instruments which proved ineffective in the face of the 2009 Russia-Ukraine energy crisis;
- the development of gas storage with fast-release capacity;
- the improvement of interconnections within Europe, since filling the existing gaps is vital to the efficient functioning of the internal market and energy solidarity;
- the urgent need to implement strategic projects aimed at the diversification of energy supplies, especially in the Southern Corridor.

Parliament congratulates, in the context of becoming less dependent on Russian supplies, the governments of Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Turkey on the 13 July 2009 signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the legal framework for the **Nabucco pipeline project**, an important step towards realising this EU priority project. It underlines, at the same time, the importance of a general regime to govern the development of the corridor, with a view to linking the EU to new sources of gas from the Middle East and the Caspian region **independently of any one company or pipeline**, which regime would be aimed primarily at the speedy realisation of this link. It urges the companies and the Member States involved in close cooperation with the Commission to secure initial agreements with prospective suppliers to feed the pipelines.

The resolution calls on the Commission, the Council and the Union, as appropriate:

- to take immediate action against hostile takeover moves by non-transparent foreign entities in the EU energy market and to apply strictly EU competition rules. Parliament is alarmed by Surgutneftegas' recent acquisition of a stake in the Hungarian energy company MOL and its inability to disclose its ownership structure and the identity of its ultimate beneficiary owners;
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to investigate the activities of non-transparent foreign entities such as CENTREX, which recently took a 20% stake in Austria's Baumgarten trading and storage facility;

- to cooperate with the countries in the North Sea region in view of their significant potential as energy sources, in particular through production of offshore wind energy;
- to cooperate with the Member States of the Mediterranean region and the countries of north Africa, in view of their significant energy-resource potential and the substantial opportunities which could be created for their own development in particular within the Barcelona Process;
- to promote development by means of genuine technology transfer and capacity-building aimed at local companies and civil society in order to ensure ownership and build a lasting partnership with the Mediterranean countries in which DESERTEC will be developed;
- to take steps to secure a binding and all-encompassing Treaty basis for a common European energy supply and security policy and the speedy ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, which contains an energy solidarity clause and makes energy policy a shared responsibility between the EU and the Member States.

Lastly, Parliament stresses that energy dialogues should in no way take place at the expense of results-oriented dialogues on human rights and that the protection of human rights and energy security should be a priority on the agenda for the next EU-Russia summit and become an integral part of the new EU-Russia agreement.