Renewable sources for energy: Community strategy. Green paper

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The Council had an open debate based on a communication by the Commission titled ‘Energy for the future: renewable sources of energy’ - Green Paper for a Community strategy. Ministers discussed, among other related issues, the following themes: - to what degree should the use of renewable energies be promoted in order to achieve the Community energy objectives: competitiveness, security of supply and protection of the environment; - what would be an appropriate objective for future market penetration of renewable energy sources by the year 2010; - which strategies could be developed to ensure the market penetration of sustainable renewable energy technology; - which type of incentives could be used to ensure the economic viability of renewable energies vis-à-vis other energy sources. In their interventions, the Ministers emphasized the importance for the Community of developing policies for a renewable energy resources strategy. It was agreed that renewables’ share of the Community energy supply market should be increased. However, there was a need to examine the appropriateness of specific quantitative targets. There was broad consensus on the role that research and development activities and new technologies could play in strategies designed to enhance the market penetration of renewable energy sources; fiscal and financial incentives were considered important tools in promoting renewable energies, provided that there was no distortion of competition.