Opportunities for exporting renewable energy technologies

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The resolution drafted by Dietrich Elchlepp (D, PES) on the new prospects of the European Union in exporting technology and services for the use of renewable energy was adopted by the European Parliament without amendment. In its report, the Parliament calls on the Commission to draw up a long-term strategy to encourage the trans-sectoral export of technology for the utilisation of renewable energies, including the entire export chain. Further to this, the Parliament proposes the creation of an active and effective "European Export Council for Renewable Energies", with a particular view to helping the competitiveness of SMEs. The Parliament also seeks convincing funding for such a Council and for associated support measures, to be borne jointly by the EU and industrial associations in the renewables sector. In the context of EU cooperation with third countries, the European Parliament urges the Commission to encourage partner countries to give strategic policy priority to renewable energies. Here again, the Parliament calls for additional funding for such cooperation and export measures, and for separate budgetary provision to be made for renewable energies within various existing EU programmes. The Parliament also requests the provision of information services relating to renewable energies for Third World countries. It lends support to the positive proposals on renewable energies made in the Commission's White Paper, in particular the one million solar roofs programme, which it would like to see promptly budgeted. The report also details various other means of support for renewable energies exports - training support for SMEs; - cooperation with the European Investment Bank, the European Development Fund, Member States' foreign chambers of trade, energy supply firms and European industrial associations to achieve innovative financial instruments to encourage export of renewable energies; - encouraging debtor countries to take on programmes in this field by writing off part of their debts. Finally, in the context of EU foreign trade and development policy, the report calls for an initiative programme to use renewable energies as a means of supplying electricity to rural areas of Third World countries in order to stem the flight from the land.