Renewable sources for energy: Community strategy. Green paper

1996/2260(COS) - 15/05/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Mechtild Rothe (PES, D), Parliament called for the Commission's forthcoming white paper on renewable sources of energy to include the following points: - making it an objective to gear EU policy to increasing the share of renewable energy sources in total energy consumption in the EU to at least 15% by the year 2000; - a Community tax model which internalizes external costs and exempts renewable energy sources from tax; - requiring electricity supply companies to take electricity from renewable energy sources; - drafting initiatives to secure commitments from the Member States to using a specified proportion of renewable energy sources in energy production by supply companies and industry; - setting up a European fund for renewable energy sources to finance research, development and market introduction; - a strategy for a European programme for '1.000.000 roofs' which would meet a proportion of the cost of small, private photovoltaic systems on the roofs and walls of buildings, together with a 15 000 megawatt wind programme (offshore and in the mountains) and 1 000 megawatt biomass programme in conjunction with the Member States; - a draft directive on buildings taking account of the use of solar energy for heating and electricity; - a list of key projects which could receive start-up finance of more than 50%; - an information campaign to explain the value of and potential for renewable sources of energy to the energy sectors, industry, investors and the public; - better utilization of agricultural and forestry biomass as part of the Common Agricultural Policy; - better use of renewable energy sources in the building projects of the Community bodies; - better use of the Structural Funds. Paramount is also calling for 15% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2010 from their 1990 level. An amendment has been tabled seeking the inclusion of an energy chapter in the Treaty or the establishment a Treaty on renewable energy sources (Euronew) modelled on the EURATOM Treaty (with the power of codecision for the European Parliament).