# Energy efficiency or doing more with less. Green Paper

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The Council held a policy debate on the Commission's Green Paper on “a European Strategy for

Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy”.

At the end of the debate the EU Energy ministers confirmed that a New Energy Policy for Europe is needed.

Regarding environmental sustainability, Member States underlined:

- confirming the EU leadership in Energy efficiency by presenting an ambitious but realistic Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, with a view to exploiting fully the potential for 20% energy saving by 2020;
- confirming the EU leading role in renewables by developing a long term strategy for the effective promotion of renewables (Road Map), and implementing the Biomass Action Plan, considering also long term goals;
- completing the review of the EU CO2 Emissions Trading Scheme as an instrument to achieve climate change objectives in a cost-effective manner;
- ensuring adequate support from RD & D national and Community instruments to alternative and renewable energies with a view to increase their part in the energy mix of the European Union;
- assessment of the potential of the various sectors with respect to the global climate protection goal.

Regarding security of supply, Member States underlined:

- Europe should speak with a common voice in support of energy policy objectives when engaging third countries;
- the development of energy dialogues between the EU and third countries, as regards producer as well as consumer countries;
- the participation of our neighbouring countries in the European Internal Market, for example through an extension of the Energy Community;
- development of an authentic and sustainable energy partnership with Russia;
- intensified diversification of energy sources and with respect to supplier countries and transport routes;
- ensuring common operational approaches to address crisis situations and to reinforce solidarity;
- development of proposals on the physical security of networks.

Regarding competitiveness the following issues were mentioned:

- ensuring full, effective and transparent implementation of internal market legislation, including as a prerequisite for the stimulation of growth in Europe;
- accelerating the development of regional energy markets within the EU and their integration into the EU internal market by adequate interconnection;
- fostering the coherent development of infrastructure, from storage to cross border interconnections, and development of specific priorities for infrastructure. Strengthening of and coordination between Member States' energy regulators have also been mentioned;

- enhancing transparency in the markets, chiefly in the gas markets, e.g. through the establishment of a European energy observatory.

The President stated that this has been only the first step in the debate and that he was looking forward to summing up the discussion at the upcoming Council meeting in June.