Basic information

1995/2269(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
European Community gas supply and prospects **Subject** 3.60.03 Gas, electricity, natural gas, biogas	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	CHICHESTER Giles (PPE)	06/02/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	RÖNNHOLM Mikko (PSE)	31/01/1996
TRAN Transport and Tourism		

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Energy	1921	1996-05-07
Energy	1894	1995-12-20

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
18/10/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0478	Summary
13/11/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
20/12/1995	Debate in Council		
07/05/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
09/07/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
09/07/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0235/1996	
14/11/1996	Debate in Parliament		
14/11/1996	End of procedure in Parliament		

02/12/1996	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2269(COS)
Procedure type	COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)
Procedure subtype	Commission strategy paper
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 148
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENER/4/07202

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0235/1996 OJ C 261 09.09.1996, p. 0004	09/07/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0618/1996 OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0234-0291	14/11/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0478	18/10/1995	Summary

European Community gas supply and prospects

1995/2269(COS) - 14/11/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Giles CHICHESTER (PPE, UK), Parliament called on the Commission and Council to make progress with measures with a view to establishing a true internal market for natural gas ensuring security of supply, public interest responsibilities and consumers' rights and guaranteeing a high level of research and development. It considered that, in view of the EU's growing dependency on imports from third countries, one such measure should be a detailed risk analysis in relation to supply security. Moreover, with a view to concluding long-term, stable contracts it called for a package of social and political measures for the supplier countries. Furthermore, the European Energy Charter could be extended to embrace countries to the south and possibly in the Middle East. Other measures should concern the removal of obstacles caused by certain national prospecting and production policies. The Commission and the industry were asked to support research work or programmes covering differing techniques or systems aimed at boosting energy output and ensuring a diversification of supply sources and types of fuel (hybrid systems, utilization of associated gases, systems for co-generation, reduction of serious gas pipeline leakage, natural gas liquefaction). The EP considered that the Union and Member States should be aware of the risks associated with overdependence on any one energy source, and suggested that 25% of total energy supply constitutes the threshold which should trigger a review by the Commission.

European Community gas supply and prospects

1995/2269(COS) - 18/10/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: the Commission communication forms part of the framework set out in the Commission's Green Paper and White Paper, in which the security of supply of natural gas is designated as one of the three pillars of the common energy policy. It has a dual objective: - to provide a basis for

discussing the future direction of the Community gas sector; - to examine the question of security of supply and evaluate how the EU can strengthen it in the long term. CONTENT: the Commission points out in its document that natural gas is increasing its market share in nearly all the Member States and will rise from around 19% today to some 26% by 2010. At the same time, while Community production is falling, the EU's dependency on imports from third countries may well rise considerably from nearly 40% today to 60% in 2010 and perhaps 75% in 2020. The Commission therefore: - considers it essential to integrate the Community gas network and calls for optimum cooperation in the event of serious crisis, in order to improve the overall security of supply of the EU. There is already short-term security since, according to the Commission, the EU could withstand an interruption of supplies from its main non-OECD suppliers (Russia and Algeria) for 9 and 20 months respectively. However, by 2010, it could have a shortfall of 20% in external supplies; - considers it crucial to interconnect the networks in order to obtain and maintain long-term security: several additional interconnections could improve security. Developing the TENs will allow the list of projects of common interest to be extended to include the "missing links" in the gas pipeline network and storage projects which include the needs of the more vulnerable Member States; - recommends a cost/benefit analysis of the creation of additional prospects with a view to dealing with increased dependency on third countries: the real volume of supplies which can withstand interruption in industry and in electricity generation in the Member States needs to be studied in order to determine the current level of supplies which can withstand interruption and the implications for security of supply in the event of a serious crisis; - points out that diversified gas supply sources are essential to the long term security of supply of the EU and suggests that closer links should be forged with suppliers who might, in the medium term, come from the Middle East, Latin America, central Asia and western Africa.