Basic information

1995/2325(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
Energy policy for the European Union. White paper **Subject** 3.60 Energy policy	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	VAN VELZEN W.G. (PPE)	21/03/1996

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	SCHIERHUBER Agnes (PPE)	17/06/1996
RELA External Economic Relations	ELCHLEPP Dietrich (PSE)	21/02/1996
REGI Regional Policy	CAMISÓN ASENSIO Felipe (PPE)	21/03/1996
TRAN Transport and Tourism	PELTTARI Seppo Viljo (ELDR)	26/03/1996

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	1942	1996-07-08
Energy	1921	1996-05-07
Energy	1894	1995-12-20

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
13/12/1995	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1995)0682	Summary
20/12/1995	Debate in Council		Summary

19/01/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
07/05/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
08/07/1996	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
10/10/1996	Vote in committee		Summary
10/10/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0326/1996	
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	1995/2325(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/4/07411

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0326/1996 OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0004	10/10/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0616/1996 OJ C 362 02.12.1996, p. 0234-0279	14/11/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1995)0682	13/12/1995	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(1995)2283	18/12/1995	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0002/1996 OJ C 337 11.11.1996, p. 0041	12/06/1996	

Energy policy for the European Union. White paper

1995/2325(COS) - 13/12/1995 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: the Commission's White Paper aims to lay down guidelines for a future energy policy which could apply irrespective of the decision by the 1996 IGC on the possible insertion of more specific energy provisions in the Treaty. CONTENT: the Commission considers in its White Paper that the EU's future energy policy will rest on three pillars which are also strategic objectives: generalized competitiveness, security of energy supply and environmental protection. This policy will be implemented mainly by integrating the market, managing the EU's reliance on external sources, promoting sustainable development and assisting research and technology in the energy sector. In part one, the White Paper lays down a general framework for an energy policy based on the strategic objectives towards which Community and national energy policies need to converge. The Commission will use all the provisions of the Treaty and all existing instruments to attain these objectives. In part two, the White Paper sets out the Commission's action programme for the future. This programme, which will be updated every two years, will be implemented using the normal Community decision-making process (proposals and communications) or by adopting new management methods under the current system. As far as immediate action is concerned, the Commission intends, subject to the outcome of the IGC, to take initiatives in 1996 to: - establish a regular energy trend monitoring programme, in cooperation with the Member States, industry and other entities; - create an energy advisory committee under the aegis of the Commission; - organize cooperation between Member States on the agreed energy objectives. The Commission will present proposals on the question of amending the Treaty to the 1996 IGC. This question will be the subject of a Commission report in 1996.

Energy policy for the European Union. White paper

1995/2325(COS) - 20/12/1995

The Council took note of the presentation by Commissioner PAPOUTSIS of the ‘White Paper for a European Union energy policy’. This document lays down an indicative Commission work programme for the next few years. It takes account of the limits imposed on Community action for reasons connected with either subsidiarity or budgetary constraints. The Council will begin examining the White Paper under the Italian Presidency.

Energy policy for the European Union. White paper

1995/2325(COS) - 14/11/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr W.G. VAN VELZEN (PPE, NL) on the Commission's White Paper on an energy policy for the European Union, Parliament called on the Commission to develop a financial programme to stimulate renewable energy. It was necessary to increase the proportion of renewable energies in the primary energy mix by the year 2010 to at least 15%. To this end, it called on the Commission to draw up a study into best practice instances of decentralized/local energy generation and distribution. The Commission was also called upon to investigate with the Member States the possibility of improving access for energy produced from renewable sources to the electricity grid. The EP also drew attention to the importance of establishing a minimum excise rate such that a significant contribution is made to the Community's international obligations with regard to CO2, as well as to the target of stabilizing CO2 emissions in 2005 at the latest at 1990 levels. The EP also wished to see more funds devoted to R&D in the gas sector and to combined heat and power production. It advocated that more attention should be given to the possibilities of using water in the various European river basins, including hydroelectric energy, and it urged the Commission to organize a conference with the Member States on sustainable building and to create a 'Task Force on Eco-building'. At international level, Parliament considered that the lowering of the EU's dependency on imports should be encouraged. It suggested the organization of regional energy conferences in the central and eastern European countries with a view to establishing clearly for each of those countries how the energy policy can best be supported. It hoped that all nuclear powers will be encouraged to become active members of the International Safety Convention and that in future financial aid would be made dependent on this. It hoped that PHARE and TACIS project criteria would be changed so that less emphasis is placed on the carrying out of studies and advice and more on the cofinancing of the findings of the regional energy conferences. Finally, it urged once more the conclusion of an Energy Charter with the countries of the Mediterranean region. With regard to research, the Commission was called upon to submit a coherent programme and to increase considerably demonstration activities for renewable and energy efficiency projects for the Fifth Framework Programme. At regional level, Parliament called for the coordination of better structural measures and energy policy priorities. Finally, it called on the Commission to instigate a much more significant legislative programme to improve quickly energy efficiency of road transport.