Basic information

1997/0106(SYN) SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources **Subject** 3.60.05 Alternative and renewable energies	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	BLOCH VON BLOTTNITZ Undine-Uta (V)	26/05/1997

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	BLOCH VON BLOTTNITZ Undine-Uta (V)	26/05/1997

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs, Industrial Policy	ARGYROS Stelios (PPE)	18/06/1997
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	COLLINS Kenneth D. (PSE)	02/07/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2064	1998-01-19
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2094	1998-05-18
Energy	2092	1998-05-11
Energy	2058	1997-12-08
Energy	2009	1997-05-27

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary

12/03/1997	Legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0087	Summary
27/05/1997	Debate in Council		
14/07/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
24/09/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
24/09/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0288/1997	
05/11/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
02/12/1997	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1997)0646	Summary
19/01/1998	Council position published	13303/1/1997	Summary
29/01/1998	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
22/04/1998	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
22/04/1998	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0143/1998	
30/04/1998	Debate in Parliament		
05/05/1998	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1998)0301	Summary
18/05/1998	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
18/05/1998	End of procedure in Parliament		
03/06/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1997/0106(SYN)
Procedure type	SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 130S-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENER/4/09699

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0288/1997 OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0005	24/09/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0533/1997 OJ C 358 24.11.1997, p. 0012-0035	06/11/1997	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0143/1998 OJ C 152 18.05.1998, p. 0006	22/04/1998	

Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0235/1998 OJ C 152 18.05.1998, p. 0017-0038	30/04/1998	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	13303/1/1997 OJ C 062 26.02.1998, p. 0031	19/01/1998	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1997)0087 OJ C 192 24.06.1997, p. 0016	12/03/1997	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1997)0646 OJ C 029 27.01.1998, p. 0009	02/12/1997	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1998)0037	26/01/1998	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1998)0301	05/05/1998	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR0173/1997 OJ C 379 15.12.1997, p. 0063	17/09/1997	
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES1178/1997	29/10/1997	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 1998/0352
OJ L 159 03.06.1998, p. 0053 Summary

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources

1997/0106(SYN) - 26/01/1998 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission felt that there was general agreement on the operational details of the programme, which have remained as Parliament had recommended. However, it was disappointed with the modest financial reference amount (ECU 22 million) for which provision was made in the common position, although this was offset by the fact that the amount was indicative and the fact that the decision would only apply pending the entry into force of the framework programme for the energy sector currently being examined by the European Parliament and the Council.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources

1997/0106(SYN) - 05/05/1998 - Modified legislative proposal

In its re-examined proposal following Parliament's second reading, the Commission has incorporated in full or in part almost all the amendments adopted by Parliament on 30 April 1998, except those concerning the inclusion of indirect costs in calculating tariffs, the level of funding for Altener II and an amendment concerning commitology.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources

1997/0106(SYN) - 12/03/1997 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: To propose a new five-year programme of measures and actions to promote renewable energy sources in the Community (Altener II). SUBSTANCE: The Commission proposes to continue the Altener programme, currently running, by setting up a second multiannual programme for the period 1998-2002 (Altener II) to promote renewable energy sources in the Community. The proposed budget for Altener II is ECU 30 m for the first two years (1998 and 1999). The funding of the remaining period will be set once the new financial perspectives are known. The new programme has two main objectives: - to help create the necessary conditions for the implementation of a Community action plan for renewable energy sources; - to encourage private and public investments in the production and use of energy from renewable sources. The draft decision includes elements which were successful in Altener I, adding a number of new measures aimed at stepping up the programme. Altener II will comprise the following elements: a) extension of Altener I actions: - studies and standardization actions (including voluntary agreements) in the area of renewable energy equipment; - pilot infrastructure actions: regional and local planning; new financial and market instruments; education and training; - improved information flow to professionals and potential investors in renewable energy projects (establishment of networks, exchange of experience and knowhow); b) new actions to promote penetration of renewable energy sources (RES); initiatives aimed at mobilizing private capital to accelerate investments in renewable energy projects (biomass, solar thermal and solar photovoltaic systems, solar energy systems in buildings, small hydroelectric projects, wind energy, geothermal energy); c) new actions for the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Community RES strategy; monitoring of progress made in renewable energy penetration at national and Community level and assessment of the impact of the various actions undertaken.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources

1997/0106(SYN) - 02/12/1997 - Modified legislative proposal

Of the 24 amendments adopted by Parliament on first reading, 17 are incorporated in whole or in part. The amendments adopted seek to strengthen the European programme with particular reference to: - measures to take account of the interests of SMEs; - measures to promote an environment favourable to investments; - measures to increase the share of renewable energies in the energy market in accordance with current Community strategy; - the creation of jobs in the promotion of the European industry; - consideration of long-term viability and the definition of conditions and guidelines applicable to financial support for actions and measures; - measures to promote the export of technologies involving renewable energy sources.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources

1997/0106(SYN) - 19/01/1998 - Council position

The Council common position incorporates 15 of the 17 amendments proposed by the European Parliament at first reading and accepted by the European Commission. The agreement reached by the Council takes account of the importance of continuing the programme with the forthcoming adoption of the multi-annual framework programme in the energy sector for 1998-2002 (see CNS97302) including the ALTENER II programme and existing budgetary constraints. In this context, the Council made provision for the programme to last two years or until the framework programme for the energy sector enters into force (31 December 1999 at the latest). It also included a financial reference amount of ECU 22 million calculated on the basis of the amount allocated to this programme in the 1998 budget. Finally, it requested a type II a) committee in order to harmonise with other actions with the same objective, especially SAVE II. The other amendments to the text concern the addition of several recitals which aim, inter alia, to: - give priority to electricity produced from renewable sources of energy; - include a reference to the added value which the Community dimension may

represent for national systems in the promotion of renewable energy. It should be noted that, as the amendments take a quantitative approach, no account is taken of employment-related economic aspects.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources

1997/0106(SYN) - 06/11/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

In adopting the report by Mrs Undine-Uta BLOCH VON BLOTTNITZ (Greens, D), the European Parliament called for more resources for the ALTENER II programme. It did not feel that the ECU 30 million set aside in the budget for the first stage (1998 and 1999) was sufficient for such an ambitious programme and asked for the level of financing to be calculated in such a way so as to ensure that in 2010 CO2 emissions would have fallen by 15% in comparison with 1990. Furthermore, Parliament felt that the measures aimed at meeting the Community's objectives should not only consist of increasing in absolute terms the number of tonnes of oil equivalent of renewable energy but should also seek to actually replace the energy sources mainly used to date. Many of the amendments adopted were aimed at strengthening the programme, by highlighting in particular: - the interests of SMEs; - the creation of a favourable environment for investment; - the provision of more meticulous and extensive information for decision-makers; - the monitoring of the progress achieved by the Community and the Member States as regards taxation, tariffs, facilities for the sale of renewable energy sources and access to distribution networks; - support for the export of technology for renewable energy sources; - job creation. Finally, the committee called on the Commission to collaborate with Parliament by regularly submitting interim reports on the programme's progress.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources

1997/0106(SYN) - 30/04/1998 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

In adopting the recommendation for second reading by Mrs Undine-Uta BLOCH VON BLOTTNITZ (V, D), the European Parliament amended the common position of the Council concerning the ALTENER II programme. By reinstating a number of amendments, Parliament insisted that the measures should not be confined to increasing in absolute terms the number of tonnes of oil equivalent of renewable energy but should also seek actually to replace the energy sources mainly used to date. Parliament opposed the entry of a financial reference amount of ECU 22 m, and called for the appropriations available for the implementation of the programme in each financial year to be authorized by the budgetary authority within the limits of the Financial Perspective. The allocation would be set in such a way as to contribute significantly to the objective of reducing CO2 emissions by 15% by 2010 in relation to 1990 levels

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources

1997/0106(SYN) - 29/10/1997 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee feels it is essential, to strengthen the actions of the Community as well as the Member States in order to speed up renewable energy sources penetration in the internal and global market. The Committee endorses the conclusions of the first report of the Altener programme, which called for future actions to focus on particular strategic aspects, such as solving market penetration problems, whilst avoiding unwarranted distortions of competition. The Committee feels that the objectives, criteria and access procedures should be defined immediately, and not on an annual basis, whilst keeping the intervention levels flexible and within predetermined limits in order to avoid distortions of competition. The Committee would particularly like to see a further increase in the percentage of funding devoted by Altener II to these objectives. The Committee insists that the creation of pan-European standards is an important factor in promoting renewable energy sources. The Committee believes that the Altener programme, should promote cooperation with international cooperation programmes such as MEDA, PHARE and TACIS. The Euro-Mediterranean Energy Forum should include arrangements for cooperation and coordination with Altener. Whilst the Committee deplores the failure to include a specific title on energy policy in the Treaty on the European Union, it feels that RES support actions should be included in a strategic Framework Programme and be coordinated with other relevant Community policies and Member States policies. The Committee supports, once again, an "ad hoc" institute for renewable energy sources within the framework of the JRC.

ALTENER II: multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources

1997/0106(SYN) - 18/05/1998 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: to extend by two years the multiannual programme ALTENER II, which expires on 31/12/1997. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Decision 98/352/EC concerning a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community (ALTENER II). SUBSTANCE: the Regulation establishes for the period 1998-1999 a second programme ALTENER II to promote renewable energy in the Community. The financial reference amount for its implementation is ECU 22 million for 1998 and 1999. The new programme has two general objectives: - to help create the necessary conditions for the implementation of a Community action plan for renewable energy resources; - to encourage private and public investment in the production and use of energy from renewable sources. The actions and measures to be financed are as follows: a) studies and other

actions to implement and complement other measures by the Community and Member States to develop the potential of renewable energy sources (e. g. sectoral and market strategies, the development of norms, facilitating grouped procurement, environmental impact assessments, analyses of the possible use of economic measures or tax incentives); b) pilot actions of interest to the Community aimed at creating or extending structures and instruments for the development of renewable energy sources: local and regional planning; tools for planning; new financial products and market instruments; c) measures intended to develop information, education and training structures and encourage the exchange of experience and know-how; d) targeted actions facilitating the market penetration of renewable energy sources and know-how relating to them; e) monitoring and evaluation actions. Participation in the programme is open to the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus. ENTRY INTO FORCE: the Decision is applicable from 01/01/1998 until the entry into force of the multiannual framework programme for measures in the energy sector, and until 31/12/1999 at the latest.