Basic information

1997/2071(COS) COS - Procedure on a strategy paper (historic)	Procedure completed
An overall view of energy policy and actions **Subject** 3.60 Energy policy	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENER Research, Technological Development and Energy	SCAPAGNINI Umberto (UPE)	26/05/1997

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets		
RELA External Economic Relations	VALDIVIELSO DE CUÉ Jaime (PPE)	17/06/1997

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Energy	2009	1997-05-27

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/04/1997	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(1997)0167	Summary
16/05/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
27/05/1997	Debate in Council		
08/10/1997	Vote in committee		Summary
08/10/1997	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0308/1997	
16/12/1997	Debate in Parliament		
18/12/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
19/01/1998	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1997/2071(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/4/08829

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0308/1997 OJ C 339 10.11.1997, p. 0006	08/10/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T4-0632/1997 OJ C 014 19.01.1998, p. 0104-0178	18/12/1997	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(1997)0167	23/04/1997	Summary

An overall view of energy policy and actions

1997/2071(COS) - 23/04/1997 - Non-legislative basic document

OBJECTIVE: clarify current Community policy in the field of energy and propose new initiatives with a view to strengthening cooperation between the Member States in this area. SUBSTANCE: the European Union's energy policy is already based on a wide range of programmes and legal instruments. For this reason, the Commission is for the first time presenting an overall view of the main components of energy policy. This energy policy outline also covers actions taken in cooperation with Member States and those taken by the Union itself, together with the financial aspects (details of annual budgets for Community energy actions and programmes). Communication also sets out the major challenges facing the Union in the relatively near future. The spectacular increase in the external energy dependency of the European Union. It currently stands at 50% and could increase by 2020 to as much as 70%, 80% and 90% for natural gas, coal and oil respectively. The growing need to ensure more competitive energy prices: compared with the United States, European industry pays far more for energy. For instance, it is estimated that in the chemical sector European companies pay up to 45% more than their US competitors. However, prospects look encouraging in the energy sector and it is expected that the forthcoming liberalization of the electricity market will provide substantial benefits amounting to ECU 10-12 m per annum. The introduction of third party access in gas would also lead to a cost reduction of ECU 9 m per annum; The need to render energy and environmental objectives more compatible, particularly in view of the Union's undertakings concerning climatic change (in March 1997, the Council set as an objective a 15% reduction in greenhouse gas omissions by the year 2010). The development of 'clean and efficient' energy technologies: it is necessary to strengthen security of supply and diversify energy sources while achieving energy savings. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to ensure closer links between the different stages of research and development and improve cooperation between Member States. Two lessons can be drawn from this analysis: 1. Further measures must be taken in the energy sector to meet more effectively the significant forecast increase in external dependence and the objectives regarding competitiveness and the environment. It is necessary to achieve a better targeting of Community actions on the basis of priority objectives and to optimise the utilization of financial resources to encourage synergies and identify areas where energy measures can be improved. 2. Efforts should be made to achieve clarification and simplification to satisfy more effectively the Union's priorities in this area through definition of a new legal basis to achieve a more efficient energy policy and to give it a higher profile.

An overall view of energy policy and actions

1997/2071(COS) - 18/12/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In adopting the report by Mr Umberto SCAPAGNINI (UPE, I) on the Commission communication 'an overall view of energy policy and actions' Parliament called for European energy policies to be brought together in a chapter on energy in the EC Treaty and requested that for all Community decisions in this sector Parliament should be involved via the codecision procedure. It called on the Commission in future to indicate clearly in its proposals on energy how the Community will meet its obligations with regard to environmental protection, improvement of the employment level and the quality of life of its citizens. Parliament also considered that the role of the European Energy Observatory should be strengthened as a means of defining guidelines for European energy policy, able to provide a reliable point of reference for operators and the energy market. It called on the Commission to make regular assessments of the energy and environmental policies pursued by the Member States so as to study the degree of compatibility between national energy and environmental objectives and those adopted by the Union. It also drew attention to the importance of renewable energies and the steady growth in the consumption of natural gas in the Community. Deploring the drastic cuts made by the Council in relation to the energy budget, it called on the Commission to ensure the transparency of external action in this sector so that Parliament could properly monitor the cooperation with non-member countries in the framework of Phare, Tacis, Meda or the EDF. It also pointed to the need for indirect Community research and development measures to give proper importance to innovative energy technologies, giving preference to renewable energies and natural gas (liquefaction, transportation and regasification). It also advocated that the substantial investments needed for the application of these substitute energies should not fall on citizens. It considered that the Community institutions should take part in the development of electricity production from the nuclear sector in view of the possibilities offered by this type of energy production for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. Lastly Parliament recalled its support for the drawing up of a framework programme for energy policy which would allow the deployment of significant measures in this field.