

Basic information	
2008/2214(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Follow-up of the energy efficiency national action plans: a first assessment Subject 3.60.08 Energy efficiency	

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy		GYÜRK András (PPE-DE)	24/09/2008
	Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
	REGI Regional Development		FERNANDES Emanuel Jardim (PSE)	05/11/2008
European Commission	Commission DG		Commissioner	
	Energy and Transport		PIEBALGS Andris	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
23/01/2008	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2008)0011 	
23/09/2008	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
21/01/2009	Vote in committee		Summary
27/01/2009	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0030/2009	
18/02/2009	Debate in Parliament		

19/02/2009	Decision by Parliament	T6-0064/2009	Summary
19/02/2009	Results of vote in Parliament		
19/02/2009	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2008/2214(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55-p4 Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ITRE/6/64701

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE416.355	26/11/2008	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE415.006	05/12/2008	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE416.610	17/12/2008	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0030/2009	27/01/2009	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0064/2009	19/02/2009	Summary
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Follow-up document	COM(2008)0011 	23/01/2008	Summary	

Follow-up of the energy efficiency national action plans: a first assessment

2008/2214(INI) - 19/02/2009 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 616 votes to 24, with 17 abstentions, a resolution on the follow-up of the energy efficiency National Action Plans (first assessment), following the European Commission's communication on this issue.

The resolution welcomes the action plans produced by the Member States but notes with concern that the delays in submitting the plans and the contents of a number of National Action Plans point to deficiencies which might endanger the attainment of the EU's energy efficiency and climate protection objectives.

Legally binding targets for energy efficiency: the Parliament calls on the Commission to make energy efficiency and energy savings the cornerstone of the Energy Policy for Europe and urges it to make the 20% energy efficiency target by 2020 legally binding. The Member States are called upon to increase their level of ambition and turn their National Energy Efficiency Action Plans (NEEAPs) into a practical tool for delivery of their energy efficiency targets under Directive 2006/32/EC on energy end-use efficiency and energy services.

More ambitious interim targets: the Parliament also calls on the Member States to go beyond the minimum national indicative energy saving target of 9% by 2016 in Directive 2006/32/EC and to set clear interim targets to achieve the final target. Moreover, the Commission is called upon to review the Directive on energy services in 2012.

Energy efficiency requirements of buildings: stressing that residential buildings are among the most energy-wasteful sectors, MEPs urge that financial support at both national and Community levels for the energy performance of buildings be increased. They encourage Member States and the regions to use Structural funds to set up on their territories thematic networks in the framework of the Concerted Action provided for by the 2008 Intelligent Energy Europe Work Programme, in order to be informed about practices of other EU regions as regards the efficient use of energy.

The National Action Plans should set as a priority the improvement of the envelope quality of dwellings where low income people reside, taking into account the fact that unpredictable fuel prices will seriously aggravate the economic situation of these households and may create serious social problems.

Developing action plans: MEPs regard it as extremely important that the National Action Plans be adapted to geographical, climatic, economic structure and consumer characteristics, which can differ widely between regions. Moreover, the plans should pay special attention to poverty caused by rising energy prices and guarantee suitable protection for those at risk of poverty.

MEPs also consider it indispensable that the National Action Plans be prepared with the substantive involvement of local and regional governments, civil organisations and economic partners in order to ensure better grassroots implementation. In this context, they stress the need for the development of best practices and synergies and the organisation of information exchange and coordination of the diverse and dispersed actors in the energy efficiency sector.

Role of SMEs: MEPs believe that SMEs have an important role to play in improving energy efficiency but that they do not have the same capacity to comply with legislation or new standards in the energy sector. They consider, therefore, that the facilities which will be created by the Small Business Act should handle information and contacts with SMEs concerning energy efficiency.

Informing consumers and raising awareness: stressing the strategic role of EU public authorities, in particular at regional and local level, the report calls on the Member States to: (i) incorporate, in their existing structures for contacts between government agencies and the public, information on energy efficiency, best practice in those areas and consumer rights which have been established in the energy and climate sector; (ii) develop long-term energy efficiency awareness campaigns, focusing on efficiency in buildings, both public and private, and also on convincing the public that energy efficiency can bring them real savings.

The Commission is called upon, inter alia, to:

- support the compulsory introduction of smart metering systems;
- examine possible ways of reinforcing public procurement procedures with a set of energy efficiency conditions, to be achieved by giving priority to 'green' products in public contracts;
- study the Community resources dedicated to research and development in order to boost the resources dedicated to improving energy efficiency in the next seven-year financial perspective;
- encourage those Member States which have not yet adopted their national energy efficiency plan to implement decisions which have been taken in that area.

Follow-up of the energy efficiency national action plans: a first assessment

2008/2214(INI) - 23/01/2008

PURPOSE: to present the first evaluation of the national energy efficiency actions plans (NEEAP) as required by Directive 2006/32/EC on energy end-use and energy services.

CONTENT: Directive 2006/32/EC requires Member States to prepare a NEEAP and to notify it to the Commission by 30 June 2007. For the purpose of the first NEEAP, each Member State should have adopted an overall national indicative savings target of **9% or higher, to be achieved by the end of 2016**, and an intermediate national indicative savings target for 2010. They should also show in their first NEEAPs how they intend to reach these energy savings targets, describing the strategy and measures being put in place to achieve them. They should show, in particular, how they intend to comply with the provisions on the exemplary role of the public sector and the provision of information and advice on energy efficiency to end users.

A first review of the 17 NEEAPs submitted by the Member States shows that five Member States have adopted a savings target that goes beyond the minimum indicative target of 9% (notably Cyprus, Lithuania, Italy, Romania). While most seem to present a business-as-usual approach, some are more progressive, but without a clear definition as to what the new measures will be and how they will be implemented.

Although the first action plan provides some encouragement, there appears to be a gap between the political commitment to energy efficiency and the proposals aimed at facing up to these challenges.

The main measures highlighted in the first evaluation to promote energy efficiency concern the following issues :

The exemplary role of the public sector: the public sector is required to play an exemplary role, encouraging other actors to undertake energy efficiency actions across all sectors of the economy. Several Member States have set out comprehensive action plans in this field, demonstrating that they are stepping up to the challenge and leading by example. Ireland, for example, has adopted an ambitious public sector savings target of 33% by 2020, and Germany has committed to a 2012 CO2 reduction target of 30% for the public sector compared with 1990 levels, to be achieved mainly through energy efficiency improvement measures. The United Kingdom aims for carbon neutral central government buildings by 2012.

Proposed mechanisms are as follows: promote exchange of best practices and replication of good ideas among public sector bodies, at local, national and international level; putting in place a major retrofit programme for its federal buildings; the use of energy audits (all resultant recommendations with a pay-back period of 5 years or less will be required to be implemented); applying the Code for Sustainable Homes to all housing developments; introducing programmes to update obsolete public street lighting systems; sustainable public procurement.

Awareness raising, education and training: From the NEEAPs, it seems that most Member States will advocate energy efficiency via general information campaigns and/or targeted efforts linked to incentive schemes. Such information measures, coupled with clear price signals, tariffs encouraging energy efficiency and better feedback on actual consumption, through improved billing and smart meters, should put end-users in a position to take better-informed decisions on their energy use and on taking up energy efficiency incentives.

Providing incentives and mechanisms: financial and fiscal incentives are important in reducing transaction costs and perceived risks associated with adopting new technologies and novel practices. The NEEAPs present an array of incentive programmes. Many are horizontal in nature, addressing more than one sector: the expansion of *passive* or low energy buildings; a reduced value added tax rate to be applied to suppliers of services relating to construction, renovation and insulation of residential houses financed with state and municipal budget resources; putting in place an Energy Investment Deduction, a tax rebate scheme for private companies, which can be applied to the purchase or production of energy efficient equipment and sustainable energy; voluntary agreements between the national government and public and private sector actors; the importance of promoting Energy Service Companies (ESCOs); credit facilities targeting the commercial and residential sectors.

Providing the necessary institutional infrastructure: most Member States have energy agencies. They play an important part in the implementation of energy efficiency policies and programmes. Agency mandates and scope differ. As there are more than 350 local and regional agencies in the EU, this approach could be replicated in other Member States to make better use of the resources that these agencies represent.

Transport and spatial planning: most Member States face considerable challenges in the transport sector and many of those that have experienced rapid growth and heavy increase in private car ownership recognize that radical measures may now be necessary to reverse the trend. Certain countries are presenting measures concerning spatial planning aiming at reducing energy use and emissions and improving the quality and extent of the transport infrastructure.

Through eco-driving initiatives Member States are aiming to improve the fuel efficiency of vehicles, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving road safety and reducing the number of accidents.

Next steps: the Commission looks forward to further plans and to the exchange of experience and best practice and it will do its part to help Member States with their implementation of the plans.

In the coming months, the NEEAPs received by the Commission will be subject to analyses to assess whether they seem realistic with regard to achieving the savings targets identified in the plans. The Commission will consult with Member States on the review of NEEAPs before the assessment is published. Meanwhile the infringement procedure against the Member States that have yet to notify NEEAPs continues, and the Commission will closely follow the further transposition of the Directive.

That is why the Commission has suggested that Member States establish a Concerted Action on the Directive under the 2008 Intelligent Energy Europe Work Programme. The purpose of the Concerted Action is to facilitate the exchange of experiences between Member States and ensure a more rapid uptake of best practices throughout the Community.

The Commission will launch a web-based stakeholder platform to gather and present stakeholder input (industries and their umbrella organizations, local and regional actors, as well as non-governmental organizations representing consumers and environmental interests, etc).

Lastly, progress towards strategic objectives agreed in March 2007 will be assessed in the 2nd Strategic Energy Review. The Review should help in formulating recommendations for future policy development, and in taking forward further work on an EU energy policy for Europe.