



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2014/2153(INI)

24.3.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the European Energy Security Strategy
(2014/2153(INI))

Rapporteur: Arne Lietz

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that a coherent energy policy must be an integral part of the EU's overall external policy, and that further efforts and better synergies are needed to bring energy objectives into line with a credible foreign policy; recalls that energy cooperation is a cornerstone of European integration; stresses that energy security concerns the whole EU despite various degrees of vulnerability of particular Member States; calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) and the European External Action Service to closely coordinate the relevant foreign policy tools and instruments of the Member States and the EU institutions;
2. Considers that, in view of the EU's high dependence on energy imports and the current dominance of a single gas supplier, there is an urgent need to diversify energy supply sources and energy routes and to strengthen the EU's capacity to respond effectively to potential gas supply crises and withstand pressure from third countries when energy is used as a political tool; underlines the crucial importance of radically enhancing the EU's energy security by decreasing its dependency on Russia and by increasing its resilience to external pressure; believes that, in this context, it is necessary to ensure increased administrative and financial support for existing and alternative energy supply infrastructure projects, including the establishment of new supply routes from the Caspian region, the Middle East, the Mediterranean and Central Asian countries;
3. Welcomes the efforts of the Commission to build an Energy Union, and calls for its rapid implementation; recalls that a fully-fledged Energy Union can only be achieved when energy and external policy go hand in hand; stresses, in particular, the need for the EU and its Member States to develop a common energy policy based on solidarity in order to speak with one voice and act jointly at the international level, and to develop a coherent energy diplomacy; invites the Commission to assess options for voluntary demand aggregation mechanisms that could increase the EU's bargaining power; calls on the Commission to review the decision on establishing an information exchange mechanism on intergovernmental agreements between Member States and third countries in the field of energy, in order to strengthen its provisions and ensure compatibility with internal energy market legislation and an enhanced role for the Commission;
4. Calls for a strong emphasis on energy security in the Enlargement Policy, as well as in the ongoing review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP); stresses, furthermore, that the Energy Community should be used as an instrument to reform and integrate our neighbourhood more closely into the EU energy market; considers that the establishment of a common legal area based on acquis-related norms and principles of the internal energy market would enhance the security of energy supply and transit; considers that pipeline projects in our neighbourhood need to undergo a critical review and follow a strategic approach taking the current political situation fully into account;

5. Reiterates that energy cooperation must be based on the EU's core values, including respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and must promote economic and social development in partner countries, as well as the eradication of energy poverty; calls on all EU external policy actors to advocate the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in all contacts with third countries and to support international efforts to fight climate change; calls on the VP/HR and the Commission to ensure strict oversight of nuclear infrastructure within the EU by non-EU entities, and to closely monitor nuclear safety standards in the EU's neighbourhood, as well as the management of nuclear waste generated in Europe, as a potential foreign policy challenge;
6. Is concerned at the recurrent announcements by Russia that gas supply to Ukraine will be stopped, and calls on all sides to the agreement that was brokered by the former Energy Commissioner, Günther Oettinger, to find an acceptable solution;
7. Stresses that in order for the EU to increase its security of supply its import dependence must be reduced by a transition to a sustainable, decarbonised economy, based on the implementation of binding and ambitious targets to boost both energy efficiency and energy production from renewable sources, and by the establishment of a smart, modern and connected infrastructure; in this context, calls for the full exploitation of existing interconnector capacities and the realisation of new infrastructures between Member States, and emphasises the importance of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) in reducing EU energy market fragmentation; in this regard, calls for the swift synchronisation of the Baltic states' electricity systems with the European Continental Networks.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	23.3.2015
Result of final vote	+: 39 -: 9 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Lars Adaktusson, Michèle Alliot-Marie, Petras Auštrevičius, Klaus Buchner, James Carver, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Lorenzo Cesa, Aymeric Chauprade, Arnaud Danjean, Mark Demesmaeker, Anna Elżbieta Fotyga, Eugen Freund, Tunne Kelam, Afzal Khan, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, Arne Lietz, Barbara Lochbihler, Ulrike Lunacek, Andrejs Mamikins, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, David McAllister, Tamás Meszerics, Francisco José Millán Mon, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Alojz Peterle, Tonino Picula, Kati Piri, Andrej Plenković, Cristian Dan Preda, Jozo Radoš, Sofia Sakorafa, Charles Tannock, Ivo Vajgl, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Hilde Vautmans
Substitutes present for the final vote	Zigmantas Balčytis, Reinhard Bütikofer, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Marek Jurek, Gabrielius Landsbergis, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Marietje Schaake, Helmut Scholz, Traian Ungureanu
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	José Blanco López, Jude Kirton-Darling, Susanne Melior, Maria Noichl, Gabriele Preuß, Ricardo Serrão Santos