



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2017/2084(INI)

25.10.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on accelerating clean energy innovation
(2017/2084(INI))

Rapporteur: Stefan Eck

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety 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. Acknowledges that the European Union is one of the global leaders and largest public funders of clean energy; considers that research and innovation, with over EUR 10 billion in funding in this area, are key to supporting Europe's global competitiveness and leadership in advanced energy technologies and energy efficiency solutions;
2. Considers that citizens – as consumers, producers and providers – represent the main channel for society's uptake of low-carbon innovative solutions, which have a substantial impact on levels of green energy consumption; calls therefore on the Commission and the Member States to focus more efforts on facilitating and enhancing citizens' access to such solutions, including at domestic and particularly community level; supports, in this regard, the Commission's intention of decarbonising the EU's building stock by 2050, as it is alone responsible for over 40 % of the Union's final energy demand; expresses concerns about the tools and financial support available to achieve this major challenge set out in the Commission's communication;
3. Welcomes the fact that the Commission has reaffirmed its ambition to speed up the transition towards a competitive low-carbon economy by putting forward a comprehensive strategy on incentives for private investments, tailored financial instruments and financing towards research and innovation; welcomes, in this regard, the Commission's decision to invest more than EUR 2 billion of the total 2018-2020 Horizon work programme funds in clean energy research and innovation, electro-mobility, decarbonisation of building stock and integration of renewables;
4. Points out that research and innovation help make Europe a better place to live and work, encouraging competitiveness and boosting growth and job creation; observes that actions to speed up clean energy innovation should be strongly encouraged by promoting public and private investment and EU industrial competitiveness, while mitigating the social impact of the transition to clean energy;
5. Stresses the key role of climate and clean energy policies as drivers of innovation in the real economy; recalls that binding standards and targets have fostered EU leadership in eco-innovation and is concerned that, without the stepping up of current climate and clean energy policy ambition, the EU is already losing its lead market position in new technologies and conceptual innovations;
6. Acknowledges that increased funding for research projects will lead to cost reductions and a more competitive European energy storage industry; encourages the Member States to pool their resources for carrying out large-scale projects on low-carbon innovation in order to improve the cooperation between key European research stakeholders; believes that this will speed up the coordination of these stakeholders, making them more competitive;
7. Emphasises the potential of Carbon Capture and Storage as an innovative solution to effectively reduce emissions from fossil energy use in industrial processes;

8. Recalls that regulatory quality and public sector integrity are two dimensions of public governance that are critically important for investment in clean energy innovation and infrastructure; supports more intensive implementation of different financial instruments for the uptake of innovative clean energy solutions, by both public and private organisations; takes note of the gaps in the private financing of innovative technologies and encourages the better use of public resources in order to improve inward private investment;
9. Stresses the importance of the EU Urban Agenda, and welcomes the political shift towards municipal and regional authorities of the power to make green investments, facilitating cooperation in this field; stresses the importance of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, given the essential involvement of local and regional authorities in making the transition to a low-carbon economy;
10. Notes that our seas and oceans provide a vast renewable source of energy, particularly along the Atlantic seaboard, and could also become major sources of clean energy; observes that marine renewable energy, which includes both sea winds and the ocean itself, offers the EU an opportunity to generate economic growth and job creation, enhance the security of its energy supply and boost competitiveness through technological innovation;
11. Stresses that public water and sewerage utilities are energy intensive and also contribute to greenhouse gas emissions from untreated sewage; notes the need to promote consistent policies in the circular economy, particularly in view of the vital importance of the energy-water nexus, by using water more efficiently, reducing energy consumption and encouraging the provision of materials with market value, the introduction of new automation systems and efficient and accessible data systems, and innovation and new technologies;
12. Highlights the importance of ensuring that, in the future, a European low-carbon transition will be geared to the interests of all, focusing primarily on the needs of consumers, SMEs and public services; encourages public procurement of innovative low-carbon solutions;
13. Recommends stepping up efforts to invest in research and innovation, in the technological and health-related education of pupils and students and in cooperation within the knowledge triangle (education, science and business), including on renewable energy sources and energy efficiency and their impact on the environment and on citizens' health;
14. Considers that European water and energy policies should be linked, encouraging cooperation and closer integration with other industrial sectors, promoting innovative funding models and using more renewable energy instead of fossil fuels for the urban water cycle without sacrificing reliability and efficiency;
15. Stresses that the burden of environmental degradation, air pollution and health costs resulting from extracting and burning fossil fuels must be a matter for all stakeholders; considers that fossil fuel subsidies present a major obstacle to clean energy innovation and insists on redirecting such resources to financing clean energy innovation and uptake; calls on the Commission and the Member States to jointly develop a roadmap for the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies by 2020, to be replaced by commensurate subsidies for domestic and community-based clean energy projects, with strict timelines and country-

specific and measurable outcomes;

16. Notes the 'Clean Power' package presented by the Commission on 30 November 2016, introducing a regulatory framework for renewables and the internal energy market to ensure security of supply and energy efficiency in the European Union beyond 2020; regrets, however, that this package leaves subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear power untouched and fails to introduce rules for the internalisation of external costs generated by those activities;
17. Highlights the importance of energy savings and energy efficiency in the context of clean energy innovation; stresses that energy efficiency needs to be considered as regards production of fuels/energy as well as in in-use terms;
18. Recalls the Parties' commitment as part of the Paris Agreement to conserve and enhance forest sinks and notes the limited potential of bioenergy as its use can have negative climate, eco-system service and other environmental impacts;
19. Recognises the importance of the new European Consensus on Development signed in June 2017, which sets out a common vision and framework of action for the EU and its Member States in the field of development cooperation; notes that, for the first time, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets to be achieved by 2030 are universally applicable to all countries, in view of the EU commitment to take the lead in implementing them; observes that the Consensus brings Union development policy into line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and identifies important measures in the area of sustainable energy and climate change;
20. Recognises the importance of manure processing, bio-fermentation and nutrient enhancement for the farming economy and energy transition in the Union and the Member States, for example through the production of green gas, electricity and heat, and the resulting energy savings, improvements in air and soil quality and reduction of emissions;
21. Points out that energy poverty affects around 54 million EU citizens (10.8 % of the EU population), who were unable to heat their homes adequately in 2012; calls on the Commission to promote a vigorous policy of energy efficiency in buildings, which account for the largest share (40 %) of energy consumed in the EU, by encouraging renovation works, with the long-term aim of decarbonising the EU's buildings, which currently leave much to be desired in terms of energy efficiency.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	12.10.2017
Result of final vote	+: 55 -: 1 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Pilar Ayuso, Zoltán Balczó, Catherine Bearder, Ivo Belet, Biljana Borzan, Lynn Boylan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Miriam Dalli, Seb Dance, Mark Demesmaecker, Stefan Eck, José Inácio Faria, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Arne Gericke, Jens Gieseke, Julie Girling, Sylvie Goddyn, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Jytte Guteland, Jean-François Jalkh, Benedek Jávor, Karin Kadenbach, Kateřina Konečná, Urszula Krupa, Jo Leinen, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Rupert Matthews, Valentinas Mazuronis, Susanne Melior, Gilles Pargneaux, Piernicola Pedicini, Julia Reid, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Renate Sommer, Ivica Tolić, Nils Torvalds, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Herbert Dorfmann, Luke Ming Flanagan, Elena Gentile, Merja Kyllönen, Ulrike Müller, Christel Schaldemose, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	John Howarth, Răzvan Popa, Sven Schulze

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

55	+
ALDE	Catherine Bearder, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Valentinas Mazuronis, Ulrike Müller, Nils Torvalds
ECR	Mark Demesmaeker, Arne Gericke, Julie Girling, Urszula Krupa, Rupert Matthews
EFDD	Piernicola Pedicini
GUE/NGL	Lynn Boylan, Stefan Eck, Luke Ming Flanagan, Kateřina Konečná, Merja Kyllönen
PPE	Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Birgit Collin-Langen, Herbert Dorfmann, José Inácio Faria, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Jens Gieseke, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Sven Schulze, Renate Sommer, Ivica Tolić, Adina-Ioana Vălean
S&D	Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Miriam Dalli, Seb Dance, Elena Gentile, Jytte Guteland, John Howarth, Karin Kadenbach, Jo Leinen, Susanne Melior, Gilles Pargneaux, Răzvan Popa, Christel Schaldemose, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Damiano Zoffoli
VERTS/ALE	Marco Affronte, Benedek Jávor, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor

1	-
EFDD	Julia Reid

3	0
ENF	Sylvie Goddyn, Jean-François Jalkh
NI	Zoltán Balczó

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention