



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



7009/06 (Presse 67)

**PRESS RELEASE**

2717th Council Meeting

**Transport, Telecommunications and Energy**

Brussels, 14 March 2006

President

**Martin BARTENSTEIN**

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour of Austria

**P R E S S**

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7009/06 (Presse 67)

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## **Main Results of the Council**

*The Council held a policy debate on the Commission's Green Paper on "a European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy".*

*Moreover, the Council adopted **conclusions** entitled "**a new energy policy for Europe**", as a contribution of the Energy Council to the Spring European Council (7181/06).*

*The Council also adopted a directive **on energy end-use efficiency and energy services**.*

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<sup>1</sup>

- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- The documents whose references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site <http://ue.eu.int>.
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the abovementioned Council Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

## PARTICIPANTS

The Governments of the Member States and the European Commission were represented as follows:

### Belgium:

Mr Marc VERWILGHEN

Minister for Economic Affairs, Energy, Foreign Trade and Scientific Policy

### Czech Republic:

Mr Jiří BIS

Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade

### Denmark:

Mr Flemming HANSEN

Minister for Transport and Energy

### Germany:

Mr Georg-Wilhelm ADAMOWITSCH

State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour

### Estonia:

Mr Edgar SAVISAAR

Minister for Economic Affairs and Communications

### Greece:

Mr Anastasios NERATZIS

State Secretary for Transport and Communications

### Spain:

Mr José MONTILLA AGUILERA

Minister for Industry, Tourism and Trade

### France:

Mr François LOOS

Minister with responsibility for Industry

### Ireland:

Mr Kenneth THOMPSON

Deputy Permanent Representative

### Italy:

Mr Claudio SCAJOLA

Minister for Production Activities

### Cyprus:

Mr Solon KASSINIS

Director of the Energy Service, Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism

### Latvia:

Mr Arturs Krišjānis KARIŅŠ

Minister for Economic Affairs

### Lithuania:

Mr Nerijus EIDUKEVIČIUS

Deputy Minister for the Economy

### Luxembourg:

Mr Jeannot KRECKÉ

Minister for Economic Affairs and Foreign Trade, Minister for Sport

### Hungary:

Mr János KÓKA

Minister for Economic Affairs and Transport

### Malta:

Ms Theresa CUTAJAR

Deputy Permanent Representative

### Netherlands:

Mr Laurens Jan BRINKHORST

Minister for Economic Affairs

### Austria:

Mr Martin BARTENSTEIN

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Labour

### Poland:

Mr Piotr NAIMSKI

State Secretary, Ministry for Economic Affairs

### Portugal:

Mr António CASTRO GUERRA

State Secretary for Industry and Innovation, attached to the Minister for Economic Affairs and Innovation

### Slovenia:

Ms Mary TOVŠAK PLETERSKI

Deputy Permanent Representative

**Slovakia:**

Ms Eva ŠIMKOVÁ

State Secretary at the Ministry of the Economy

**Finland:**

Mr Mauri PEKKARINEN

Minister for Trade and Industry

**Sweden:**

Ms Mona SAHLIN

Minister for Sustainable Development

**United Kingdom:**

Mr Malcolm WICKS

Minister of State for Energy

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**Commission:**

Ms Neelie KROES

Member

Mr Andris PIEBALGS

Member

.....

The Governments of the Acceding States were represented as follows:

**Bulgaria:**

Mr Rumen STOYANOV OVCHAROV

Minister for Economy and Energy

**Romania:**

Mr Ioan Codrut SERES

Minister for Economy and Trade

**ITEMS DEBATED****SECURE, COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR EUROPE**

The Council held a policy debate on the Commission's Green Paper on “a European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy”, adopted on 8 March (7070/06).

The exchange of views was based on a questionnaire prepared by the Presidency (7041/06) in order to structure it, focusing on the Commission's analysis of the challenges facing the Community's energy policy and its proposed solutions, on other dimensions of energy policy that are not addressed by the Commission and on ministers' main concerns and preferred solutions. The outcome of this policy debate will constitute a complementary part of the energy input to the Spring European Council.

At the end of the debate the President summed-up the various interventions as follows:

"Europe is facing a number of challenges in the energy field: high and volatile energy prices, the increasing import dependency, need for more diversification of energy sources, of import countries and of transport routes. Moreover, the growing importance of climate change, the need for further integration of energy markets and the need for investments, to name but a few.

In response to these challenges that makes Energy the top priority on the EU agenda Energy ministers confirm that a New Energy Policy for Europe is needed.

The following key issues were highlighted in the debate:

- The new Energy Policy should aim at a more effective Community policy, more coherence between Member States and consistency between actions in different policy areas of the European Union, exploiting all synergies, bearing in mind the importance of Better Regulation. Based on shared perspectives on long term supply and demand and a transparent assessment of the advantages and drawbacks of all energy sources, this New Energy Policy should contribute to and ensure in a balanced way environmental sustainability, security of supply and competitiveness.
  - Transparency and non-discrimination on the markets, consistency with competition rules and with public service obligations are the basic principles of this New Energy Policy. Part of these basic principles are also the sovereignty of Member States over primary energy sources and the choice of the energy mix.
- (a) Regarding environmental sustainability, Member States underlined:

- Confirming the EU leadership in Energy efficiency by presenting an ambitious but realistic Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, with a view to exploiting fully the potential for 20% energy saving by 2020
- Confirming the EU leading role in renewables by developing a long term strategy for the effective promotion of renewables (Road Map), and implementing the Biomass Action Plan, considering also long term goals
- Completing the review of the EU CO2 Emissions Trading Scheme as an instrument to achieve climate change objectives in a cost-effective manner
- Ensuring adequate support from RD & D national and Community instruments to alternative and renewable energies with a view to increase their part in the energy mix of the European Union
- Assessment of the potential of the various sectors with respect to the global climate protection goal

(b) Regarding security of supply, Member States underlined:

- Europe should speak with a common voice in support of energy policy objectives when engaging third countries
- The development of energy dialogues between the EU and third countries, as regards producer as well as consumer countries
- The participation of our neighbouring countries in the European Internal Market, for example through an extension of the Energy Community
- Development of an authentic and sustainable energy partnership with Russia
- Intensified diversification of energy sources and with respect to supplier countries and transport routes
- Ensuring common operational approaches to address crisis situations and to reinforce solidarity
- Development of proposals on the physical security of networks

(c) Regarding competitiveness the following issues were mentioned:

- Ensuring full, effective and transparent implementation of internal market legislation , including as a prerequisite for the stimulation of growth in Europe
- Accelerating the development of regional energy markets within the EU and their integration into the EU internal market by adequate interconnection
- Fostering the coherent development of infrastructure, from storage to cross border interconnections, and development of specific priorities for infrastructure. Strengthening of and coordination between Member States' energy regulators have also been mentioned.
- Enhancing transparency in the markets, chiefly in the gas markets, e.g. through the establishment of a European energy observatory.

The President stated that this has been only the first step in the debate and that he was looking forward to sum up the discussion at the upcoming Council meeting in June."

**OTHER BUSINESS**

– *The Agriculture Council's ongoing work on bioenergy*

The Council took note of information from the Presidency on the Agriculture Council's ongoing work on bioenergy (6601/06).

– *European Energy Security Treaty*

The Council took note of information from the Polish delegation on its proposal for a "European Energy Security Treaty " (7160/06).

**OTHER ITEMS APPROVED****ENERGY****A new energy policy for Europe - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted conclusions entitled "a new energy policy for Europe", as a contribution of the Energy Council to the Spring European Council (*see 7181/06*).

**Energy end-use efficiency and energy services\***

The Council adopted a Directive on energy efficiency and energy services (and repealing Directive 93/76/EEC), approving all of the amendments voted by the European Parliament at second reading (*PE-CONS 3679/05, 6605/06 ADDI*).

The aim of the Directive is to enhance the cost-effective improvement of energy end-use efficiency in the Member States by providing indicative energy savings targets of 9% for the ninth year of its application and by creating the conditions for the development and promotion of a market for energy services and for the delivery of other energy efficiency improvement measures to final consumers.

To achieve this objective, Member States must prepare three national energy efficiency action plans and ensure that the public sector fulfils an exemplary role regarding investments, maintenance and other expenditure on energy-using equipment as well as energy services. The Directive also requires improved consumer information and better metering and billing of energy consumption.

Following the entry into force of the Directive, Member States will have two years in which to comply with its provisions, with the exception of the first energy efficiency action plan which must be submitted no later than 30 June 2007.