



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



## **Council conclusions on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency**

**2695th TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS and ENERGY Council meeting  
Brussels, 1 December 2005**

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"In the spirit of the Lisbon Agenda, Energy Policy has to make an important contribution to achieving greenhouse gas reduction objectives.

At the same time the medium and long term EU strategy to combat climate change called for by the Spring European Council 2005 should:

- Focus in particular on environmental effectiveness
- Take account of the need for promoting competitiveness and affordable energy supply
- Promote cost efficient measures to cut emissions
- Recognise the need for global joint efforts, in line with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities
- Provide certainty for public and private investment

The Council therefore:

### **1. WELCOMES**

- the Commission's Green Paper on Energy Efficiency (doc. 10368/05)

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## 2. RECALLS

- that energy policy needs to provide a balanced approach and synergies to the goals of security of energy supply, competitiveness and environmental sustainability
- the contribution of Energy Ministers as well as Environment Ministers to the Spring European Council 2005 (doc. 6522/05 and 6892/05)) and the conclusions of the Spring European Council (doc. 7619/05)
- the Commission Communication “Winning the battle against global climate change” of February 2005
- discussions of the inter-relationship between climate change, energy and competitiveness objectives in other formations of the Council and the (Environment) Council conclusions on Climate Change of 20 December 2004 (doc. 16298/04) and 17 October (doc. 13435/05)
- the wide ranging discussions in the Sustainable Energy Forum (Amsterdam, 13-14 October), the High Level Group on Energy Efficiency (29 September) and the International Energy Efficiency conference (2-3 November, London)
- the long standing Council commitment to the promotion of renewable sources of energy as reflected in Directive 2001/77/EC on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal energy market and Directive 2003/30/EC on the promotion of the use of biofuels or other renewable fuels for transport as well as several sets of conclusions

## 3. UNDERLINES that

- at a given cost, energy efficiency is likely to deliver more than any increase in primary energy sources
- strategies to invest in cleaner and more sustainable energy can support a range of policy objectives, including energy security, competitiveness, employment, air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- in 2003, energy use in the EU excluding transport, contributed around 63% of the (EU25) European Union’s greenhouse gas emissions. The transport sector additionally represents around 19% of emissions in the same year.
- decisions taken worldwide on investment in energy infrastructure, technologies and systems will have a direct impact on the world’s ability to tackle the problem of climate change for the foreseeable future.
- these decisions present the EU with both a policy challenge and an economic opportunity regarding its international competitiveness and security of supply objectives
- developing an integrated strategy to achieve climate change and energy policy objectives could reduce the cost of action and increase certainty as we move to a global low-carbon emitting economy.

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#### 4. EMPHASISES

- that cost-effective measures for energy efficiency are one of the quickest and most efficient means of reducing energy demand in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the EU's climate change objectives whilst enhancing the competitiveness of European business in line with the Lisbon Agenda and making a significant contribution to security of energy supply.
- that timely decisions on the future of the energy policy in the EU, encouraging innovation in affordable, efficient, secure and environmentally friendly means of producing and consuming energy, will help secure a clear competitive advantage for the European Union in the move towards a low-carbon emitting economy
- that the need for a coherent overall framework encompassing all aspects of energy efficiency recognising that different actions will be appropriate for different sectors and for the European, National or Local levels
- the importance in this respect of the early adoption of a Directive on Energy Services and End-use Energy Efficiency

#### 5. RECOGNISES that

- while the potential for energy efficiency improvement differs between Member States, all Member States are already actively pursuing significant policies for improving energy efficiency employing a very wide range of measures to overcome barriers to further energy savings.
- the EU needs to cooperate with key players outside the European Union, especially developing countries in line with the EU commitments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the EU Strategy on climate change in the context of development cooperation. Therefore welcomes the partnership and initiative agreed at the EU-China and EU-India summits respectively, which will improve cooperation on climate change, including clean energy and energy efficiency, and will promote sustainable development.<sup>1</sup>
- as it is increasingly through a large number of individual decisions that energy efficiency measures will be implemented, the role and awareness of the general public should be enhanced.

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<sup>1</sup> E.g the EU-China partnership will include cooperation on the development, deployment and transfer of low carbon technology, including advanced near-zero-emissions coal technology through carbon capture and storage and an EU-China Action Plan on Industrial Cooperation on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energies.

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## 6. STRESSES

- the need to raise the profile of energy efficiency across all sectors, including in the public sector which should lead by example for other sectors.
- the importance of the exchange of best practice across the Union and the need to ensure synergy and consistency with other policy areas, particularly environment and transport policy
- that the transport and building sectors, in particular, hold a large potential for increased energy efficiency
- an increased emphasis on research, development and deployment of energy efficient products and technologies is needed, which could also be beneficial to the EU export potential.
- the potential of more efficient energy generation, including with low or zero emissions.

## 7. WELCOMES THE COMMISSION'S INTENTION TO

- develop an ambitious and realistic Action Plan on energy efficiency in 2006 which should i.a.:
  - exploit to the extent possible and in a cost-efficient manner the energy savings potential identified in the Green Paper
  - contribute to long-term certainty for investors in energy markets
  - reflect the potential of a wide range of measures and instruments such as product labelling, norms and standards, market-based and other support measures, public procurement, voluntary agreement, third party financing, information campaign and energy audits, including where feasible in sectors with a large potential like building and transport
  - be based on reliable cost-benefit analysis, and
  - consider the need for harmonised principles for instruments such as certificates.
- encourage eco-innovation and improvement of productivity through eco-efficiency in line with the Environment Technology Action Plan and promote the development and market uptake of energy efficient products and technologies
- to develop further the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)

## 8. URGES MEMBER STATES TO

- ensure effective application of Community legislation on energy efficiency including Directive 2002/91/EC on the Energy performance of Buildings, Directive 2004/8/EC on the promotion of co-generation and Directive 2005/32/EC on eco-design requirements for energy using products.
- make good use of energy efficiency-related provisions under Directive 2003/54 on the internal market in electricity

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## 9. INVITES THE COMMISSION TO

- ensure that energy efficiency is explicitly covered in its proposals on a revised EU sustainable development strategy and on the new European Climate Change Programme
- consider in detail when developing its cost-benefit analysis of climate change measures the contribution that can be made by energy efficiency measures and report on the effects of emissions trading instruments on other instruments in the energy sector as announced at the Spring European Council 2003.
- take the need for long term regulatory certainty and transparency and cost-effectiveness into account in its forthcoming review of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, in the context of the ongoing development of the EU's medium and long-term strategy to tackle climate change. The Commission should thus review this scheme and should table as soon as possible proposals, as appropriate, to make this scheme more effective while taking into account the need for promoting competitiveness and an affordable energy supply.
- base this review on comprehensive and reliable data and ensure that remedies to possible market disturbances in sectors affected by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme are provided in good time
- do its utmost to provide guidance early enough for the preparation of the 2nd national allocation plans
- move swiftly to implement measures within the framework provided by the eco-design directive."

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