

EU energy system: Towards a sustainable, carbon-free system by 2050

Renewables, energy efficiency and defining a 2030 policy framework with clear targets to provide a stable legal environment for investors are the key elements for moving to a decarbonised energy system by 2050, said Parliament in its Energy Roadmap 2050 non-binding resolution adopted on Thursday. The text also refers to ETS and the need for the Commission to consider, if appropriate, adapting the system.

"We have to establish a balance between energy and the environment. Dogmatic approaches from both sides or from either side would lead to nothing more than energy poverty for European citizens and for the deindustrialisation of Europe" said the rapporteur, Niki Tzavela (EFD, EL)

Renewables and energy efficiency

Members of the Energy Committee support the conclusion that increased deployment of renewables, energy efficiency and energy infrastructure are the 'no regret' options to achieve a decarbonised 2050 energy system and they ask the Commission to "explore a combined 'high renewables and high energy efficiency' scenario".

Clear targets and investor security

Commission should present a post-2020 strategy which would be consistent with the EU's 2050 decarbonisation agenda, says the text. Milestones and targets on emissions, renewable energy and energy efficiency should be developed with the aim of establishing an "ambitious and stable" legal and regulatory framework. This however requires "pan-European governance", say MEPs.

The role of gas

MEPs agree that natural gas will play an important role in the short to medium term in the transformation of the energy system, since it represents a "relatively quick and cost-efficient" way of reducing reliance on other more polluting fossil fuels and a potentially "flexible back-up" for balancing variable renewable energy supply.

Social dimension

Special attention should be given to energy poverty and employment, say MEPs adding that the Commission, member states and local authorities should find tailored solutions with a special emphasis to low-income and vulnerable households.

ETS

The text calls on the Commission to "adopt measures to correct the failings of the ETS", including "if appropriate the amendment of the regulation referred to in article 10(4) of Directive 2003/87/EC in order to implement appropriate measures which may include withholding the necessary amount of allowances" and proposing legislation "at the earliest appropriate date to modify the 1,74% annual linear reduction requirements of the 2050 CO2 reduction target". MEPs approved the text on ETS with 292 votes in favour, 289 against and 32 abstentions.

The non-binding resolution was adopted with 337 votes in favour, 195 against and 37 abstentions.

Adopted text will be available here (click on 14.03.2013)
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/texts-adopted.html>

Video recording of the debate (click on 11.03.2013)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/plenary/search-by-date>

Profile of rapporteur Niki Tzavela (EFD, EL)

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96660/NIKI_TZAVELA.html

Interview with Ms Niki Tzavela

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/content/20130121STO05424/html/Niki-Tzavela-Renewable-energy-will-move-to-the-centre-of-the-EU-energy-mix>

Contacts

Kristina ELEFTERIE

(+32) 2 28 32798 (BXL)

(+33) 3 881 74651 (STR)

(+32) 498 98 32 83

indu-press@europarl.europa.eu