



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 16.07.1999

SEC(99) 1096 final

97/ 0370 (COD)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 251 (2) of the EC-Treaty

Common position of the Council with a view to the adoption of a Council Decision the European Parliament and the Council adopting a Multi-annual Programme Energy; Annex IV, the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources in the Community (1998-2002).

Common position of the Council with a view to the adoption of a Council Decision of the European Parliament and the Council adopting a Multi-annual Programme for Energy; Annex IV, the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources in the Community (1998-2002).

1. **Background**

Proposal transmitted to Parliament and Council	04.12.97
Opinion of Economic and Social Committee	29.04.98
Opinion of Committee of Regions	16.07.98
Parliament's opinion on first reading	11.03.99
Commission's amended proposal (COM(99)212)	21.05.99
Common position adopted	28.06.99

2. **Purpose of the Commission proposal**

The purpose of the Commission's proposal is to include the ALTENER II programme (which expires on 31.12.1999) as Annex IV of the Multi-annual Framework Programme for the Energy sector which was adopted by the Council (Council Decision 1999/21/CE) and to extend its duration by 3 years to 2002. ALTENER forms part of the Community Strategy and Action Plan for RES, to double the share of RES to 12% by 2010, to reduce energy dependency and to limit emissions of CO₂ and is now based on Article 175(1) of the Treaty which foresees the co-decision procedure with Parliament.

3. **Comments on common position**

3.1 The common position is largely in line with and supportive of the Commission's amended proposal. In several instances the common position streamlines and updates the Commission's proposal as well as setting it clearly in the context of the Multi-annual Energy Framework Programme. The common position adds a reference to the financial framework for the implementation of this programme (see 3.3 below).

3.2 **Parliament's amendments on the first reading**

Accepted by Commission and incorporated in common position:

- Amendments 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23 and 24

- Amendments 2, 6, 11, 14, 16, 21 and 22 accepted in principle but not in the proposed form.

- Amendments not accepted 3, 12, 15 and 26

Accepted by Commission but not incorporated in common position:

Amendments 6 and 10: Following new and updated recitals there is no need to maintain these two.

3.3 **New provisions introduced by the Council and Commission's position**

The common position streamlines and updates the proposal in a number of areas:

- Kyoto and CO2 emissions (recitals 4, 6, 14 and 15),
- reference to the Commission Communication on a Community Strategy and Action Plan by 2010 for Renewable Energy Sources - White Paper on RES and Campaign for Take-Off (COM(97)599) recitals 9, 10,11),
- references to the new context of the Multi-annual Energy Framework Programme adopted by Council Decision 1999/21/EC (recital 16, Articles 1,5, 6),
- reference to the Fifth R.T.D. Framework Programme (1998-2002) and Council Decision of 25/01/99 adopting a specific programme on energy and related fields (recital 17),
- the conditions of participation in ALTENER for the CEECs and Cyprus (Article 7).

All these amendments are consistent with the original proposal and indeed improve it.

In addition, Article 1 (3) refers to the financial framework for the implementation of the programme as EUR 74 million (EUR 29.6 million for 1998-99 and a financial reference amount of EUR 44.4 million for 2000-2002). The indicative amount of EUR 74 million was agreed at the Energy Council of 13.11.98 giving a priority to ALTENER (and SAVE) within the Multi-annual Energy Framework Programme. This programme will be reviewed taking into account the priority of energy activities before the end of 2000.

4. Conclusions

The common position is largely consistent with and supportive of the Commission's amended proposal (COM(99)212). Where appropriate, it updates the amended proposal and sets it clearly within the context of the Multi-annual Energy Framework Programme. The Commission can therefore support the common position.