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**R E P O R T**

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer  
Protection

on energy and the environment

Rapporteur: Mrs Kirsten JENSEN

PE 144.353/fin.

Or. EN

A Series: Reports - B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)



= Consultation procedure requiring a single reading



= Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment



= Cooperation procedure (first reading)



= Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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At the sitting of 12 March 1990 the President of the European Parliament announced that he had forwarded the motion for a resolution by Mr Ken Collins (and others) on energy and the environment, pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure, to the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection as the committee responsible and the Committee on Energy, Research and Technology for opinion.

At its meeting of 29 June 1990 the committee decided to draw up a report and appointed Mrs Kirsten Jensen rapporteur.

At its meetings of 26 September 1990, 17 December 1990, 31 January 1991 and 2 May 1991 the committee considered the draft report.

At the last meeting it adopted the resolution by 19 votes to 7 with 8 abstentions.

The following took part in the vote:

Collins (Chairman), Schleicher (1st Vice-Chairman), Jensen (rapporteur), Alber, Amendola, Bertens, de la Camera Martinez, Canavarro, Ceci, Chanterie, da Cunha Oliveira (for Bowe), Douste-Blazy, Florenz, Guidolin, Happart (for Avgerinos), Jepsen (for Jackson, Car.), Kühn, Lannoye (for Quistorp), Llorca Vilaplana, Maher (for Pereira), Martin, S. (for Pimenta), Monnier-Besombes, Muntingh, Oomen-Ruijten, Partsch, Pollack, Pronk (for Banotti), Randzio-Plath (for Diez de Rivera), Simmonds, Smith, A. (for Bombard), Valverde Lopez, Veil, Vernier, Vohrer

The Committee on Energy, Research and Technology decided not to deliver an opinion.

The report was tabled on 6 May 1991.

The deadline for tabling amendments will appear on the draft agenda for the part-session at which the report is to be considered.

A  
MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on energy and the environment

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr Collins and others on energy and the environment, (Doc B3-223/90)
  - having regard to Articles 100a and 130r-130t of the EEC Treaty,
  - having regard to the Council resolution (88/7466/EEC) of 16 September 1988 on the Community's energy policy objectives for 1995,
  - having regard to the Council recommendation (88/611/EEC) of 8 November 1988 to promote cooperation between public utilities and auto-producers of electricity<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the conclusions of the Council on energy and the environment of 21 May and 29 October 1990,
  - having regard to its resolution of 26 June 1989 on the internal energy market<sup>2</sup>,
  - having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council on energy and the environment - COM(89) 369 - of 8 February 1990,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (Doc A3-0124/91)
- A. whereas the 1987 World Commission report on environment and development (Brundtland) concluded that the world's gross energy consumption would have to be halved over the next forty to fifty years to achieve sustained development,
- B. stressing that explicit reference has been made to this recommendation several times at many meetings of the Community's Heads of State and by the European Council of 21 May 1990,
- C. having regard to the global damage resulting from the use of fossil fuel, including the depletion of the ozone layer and stimulation of the greenhouse effect,
- D. having regard to smog formation, acidification and oxygen depletion in the sea,
- E. whereas there is a risk of polluting ground water with heavy metals through the dumping of ash, slag and gas scrubbing residues at unsuitable sites,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No L 335, 7.12.1988

<sup>2</sup> OJ No C 158

- F. having regard to the serious and unresolved problems associated with nuclear power production and the storage of radioactive materials,
- G. whereas, moreover, a policy that attempts to replace fossil fuel with nuclear power to resolve the major problem of the greenhouse effect is doomed to failure,
- H. whereas renewable energy sources are the only environmentally sound sources of supply in the long term,
- I. whereas the best overall method of reducing emissions in the energy sector is to cut down fuel consumption,
- J. whereas there are two methods of reducing energy consumption:
  - more efficient energy use (technical energy-saving),
  - more efficient energy production (fuel-efficient supply systems),
- 1. Affirms the overriding and urgent need for a global response to the problem of the greenhouse effect embracing not only energy policy but also agriculture, forestry, waste management and industrial policy;
- 2. Points to the need to draw up a number of clear objectives with a view to reducing emissions in the Community if sustainable development is to be achieved;
- 3. Points out, moreover, that the following reductions must be attained by the year 2040 (compared with 1988 levels):
  - a 90% reduction in SO<sub>2</sub> discharges,
  - a 75% reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> discharges and
  - a 75% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> discharges;
- 4. Stresses that the principal objective is a 50% reduction in the Community's gross energy consumption by the year 2040;
- 5. Points out that, as a consequence of the above objectives, any shorter term energy planning must be in line with the main objective to halve the Community's gross energy consumption by the year 2040;
- 6. Points out that, in the light of this, energy policy should be based on efficient utilization of energy and improving end-use efficiency;
- 7. Calls for the EC building materials directive to be expanded so that subsequent work in CEN is based on measures aimed at maximizing energy savings;
- 8. Calls for a Commission communication on transport and the environment;
- 9. Calls for the promotion of technologies which make use of renewable energy sources from the point of view of distribution, demonstration, research and development;

10. Calls for structural changes in all areas with a view to improving energy efficiency;
11. Calls for the introduction of the optimal existing technologies to reduce the environmental impact of using fossil and fissile fuel to a minimum;
12. Calls for the harmonization of energy levies at a high level and the simultaneous introduction in the Community of a CO<sub>2</sub> levy on fossil energy sources;
13. Proposes that part of the proceeds of this levy be allocated by the Community, part used as a support fund for third countries and Eastern European countries with a view to promoting energy saving measures in those countries and part used to boost substantially the resources devoted by the Community to the programme for energy management and the development of renewable energy sources;
14. Stresses that under no circumstances should a CO<sub>2</sub> levy be used to encourage nuclear energy;
15. Calls also, in conjunction with the introduction of a CO<sub>2</sub> levy, for the introduction of an environmental levy on nuclear-generated electricity to offset at least the increased cost of using fossil fuels when compared with nuclear-generated electricity;
16. Calls on the Commission to draw up a directive on the standardization of electricity pricing systems aimed at promoting as far as possible a pricing policy which encourages energy saving measures among consumers;
17. Points out that such an adjustment of energy levies is an efficient way of bringing socio-economic and environmental costs into line with consumer costs;
18. Considers in particular that, with this in mind, more encouragement should be given to the production of (electrical and fuel) energy from biomass in view of the environmental advantages that would accrue (particularly for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions);
19. Considers that cutting energy consumption in the transport sector is of prime importance and calls for a firm policy both to encourage the use of public transport, particularly in urban areas, and to promote the long-distance carriage of goods by rail rather than by road;
20. Calls on the Commission as a matter of urgency to draw up proposals to confirm and enshrine in Community law the principle embodied in Article 130r to the effect that producers should bear full responsibility for any damage caused to individuals, property or the environment by operators in the nuclear power sector, both in regard to the management of fissile materials and radioactive waste and to potential accidents;
21. Urges the Commission to draw up a proposal affirming and incorporating into European law the principle embodied in Article 130r providing for the comprehensive and unlimited civil liability of producers for any damage caused to persons, property and the environment by operators in the nuclear power sector, both in regard to the management of fissile material and radioactive waste and to potential accidents;

22. Calls for the closure of at an early date of unsafe nuclear power stations and the development of measures aimed at:
  - assessing accurately the safety of existing or planned installations;
  - steadily increasing the safety of nuclear installations;
  - resolving the problem of radioactive waste in a manner compatible with the safety of the environment;
23. Calls for the basic standards for protection against ionizing radiation to be reviewed in accordance with Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty, taking account of the most recent scientific data which indicate that these standards should be reduced by a factor of at least 10;
24. Calls for an end to all reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuels and all manufacture of mixed uranium-plutonium fuels in keeping with the principle laid down by the ICRP (to the effect that for any activity involving exposure to radiation, it needs to be shown that the advantages considerably outweigh the risks and costs incurred);
25. Calls on the Commission to draw up a directive introducing a levy to restrict overproduction of electricity for generating heat;
26. Requests the Commission to propose incentives for the establishment of combined electricity and heat generation facilities, in keeping with the principle of geographic proximity between electricity generation and energy and heat consumption;
27. Calls on the Commission to convert the Council's recommendation of 8 November 1988 to promote cooperation between public utilities and auto-producers of electricity into a directive and to clarify its provisions, removing legal obstacles and laying down reasonable contractual terms for the sale of electricity;
28. Recommends that the Commission submit a proposal for a regulation making it compulsory for energy-saving appliances and/or equipment to be marked as such as and clear information to be provided;
29. Calls on the Commission to draw up a framework directive laying down minimum energy efficiency standards for all energy-consuming or transforming equipment;
30. Calls for the adoption of a regulation banning the use of heavy fuel oil without desulphurization, in accordance with Directive 88/609/EEC;
31. Calls for the prompt harmonization, at the highest level, of standards for the various types of electricity-generating plants, covering emission, plant safety and the protection of workers and the population at large;
32. Calls on the Commission to carry out an assessment of the ecological and health costs of electro-magnetic pollution caused by the transport and distribution of electricity;

33. Proposes that the principle of least cost planning should form the basis of all investment in energy production and that environmental costs should be incorporated;
34. Calls for priority to be given to the criterion of reducing the demand for energy when projects are selected for investment aid by the European Investment Bank, under the Structural Funds and the various special regional aid programmes;
35. Calls for substantial changes in the R and D budget, in line with the European Parliament's position, to promote renewable energy sources;
36. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, Commission and the Governments and Parliaments of the Member States.



## B

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

#### Introduction

The energy industry gives rise to environmental problems which transcend national boundaries. No country can resolve or significantly reduce on its own the impending problems of climatic change. Effective international, organizational frameworks must be created to prevent a situation in which some countries make an effort to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases while others continue to increase theirs.

The report of the World Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Report) laid down in 1987 that energy consumption should be halved and that this required a more conscious policy towards reducing consumption.

The Commission's 1989 report on the environment and the internal market emphasized that the internal market and the resulting economic growth could lead to increased pressure on the environment if no counter measures were taken. A new and much more widely-ranging environmental policy must be based on the 'polluter pays' principle. The Member States should be enabled to use taxes as a means to obtain environmental improvements, and current discussions on tax harmonization must not be an obstacle to this.

The present report forms part of the Community debate on energy and the environment. It relates to a number of concrete proposals in the Commission's energy and the environment communication, gives some factual information on problem areas and possible solutions, and makes suggestions on reducing the environmental problems in the energy sector.

#### ENERGY CONSUMPTION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Commission's scenario for 2010 is not very reassuring. It contains an analysis of the main atmospheric emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, sulphur, NO<sub>x</sub>, nitrogen and CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide). The use of fossil fuels is expected to continue rising until the year 2010. SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels are expected to fall by about 70% by 2010 and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by only 20%. The reason for the considerable fall in SO<sub>2</sub> emissions is that it is now possible for power stations to burn fossil fuels more cleanly (desulphurization, change of type of fuel etc.).

The problem with desulphurization is that it leads to another pollution problem, usually in the form of gypsum (a chemical compound of sulphur, oxygen and calcium). Waste water usually contains cadmium, mercury and other heavy metals. The energy sector is banking on the possibility of using gypsum (and fly ash) from desulphurization, e.g. in the building and construction industry. This is, however, only possible to a limited extent, and growing disposal problems are likely.

The reason for the small drop in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions is that a large proportion of these emissions are attributable to the transport sector. The Commission communication concludes that the transport sector gives cause for concern from the point of view of energy and the environment. But the communication does

not cover transport, and therefore does not provide the necessary overall picture of the situation.

The most worrying aspect of the 2010 scenario now is that the Community's CO2 emissions will continue rising until 2010. Increased use of gas and nuclear energy is called for if emissions are to be brought back to below the 1987 level. However, better energy efficiency is thought to be the most promising means of reducing CO2 output. There is a need for a considerable reduction in overall consumption of fossil fuels.

#### THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE ENERGY INDUSTRY

The effects of the energy industry on the environment can arise from any part of the fuel chain: the extraction of raw materials, their treatment and transport, in the actual combustion and transformation into energy, and the treatment, transport and disposal of any waste products remaining after combustion.

The most important environmental effect is air pollution. The polluting effects of combustion may be grouped into the following now well-known groups of problems:

- global effects, chiefly the depletion of the ozone layer and the increasing greenhouse effect.
- smog formation caused by high concentrations of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons under the influence of sunlight. This damages materials and aggravates respiratory tract diseases, particularly for asthmatics.
- acidification, primarily due to emissions of SO2 and NOx. Acid rain causes damage to woods and lakes, and in urban areas causes material damage to buildings, cultural treasures etc.
- oxygen loss in the marine environment caused partly by NOx emissions. This disturbs the balance of the food chain in the sea to the detriment of plant and animal species.
- possible pollution of ground water with heavy metals through careless disposal of ash, slag and smoke-cleaning products.

#### CLIMATIC EFFECTS

The energy sector is only an indirect contributor to the depletion of the ozone layer, which is primarily due to emissions of CFCs, used inter alia, for foam propulsion in insulation materials, for district heating pipes, in cooling systems and heat pumps. The depletion of the ozone layer may influence the whole energy balance of the atmosphere and thus contribute to a change in the climate. Harmful ultraviolet radiation may increase the risk of cancer and affect natural vegetation.

The term 'greenhouse effect' means the global warming caused by the concentration in the atmosphere of so-called 'greenhouse gases'. These take up a large proportion of the warmth radiated from the earth and send it back partly into space and partly towards the earth's surface. When the absorbent

## PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

The requirements put forward for reductions in the emissions from the energy industry are by no means unrealistic. There are well-documented technical methods nowadays for making energy production much more environment friendly and with considerable savings in the socio-economic field. The only obstacles to achieving sustainable growth in the EC countries are the blinkered vision of politicians, resistance from certain business interests, inappropriate price structures and inadequate cooperation among Member States.

### Energy savings

The best way in every respect of reducing the energy industry's emissions of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> as well as of toxic ozone, heavy metals and hydrocarbons is to reduce fuel consumption. There are two ways of achieving lower energy consumption:

- More effective end use (technical energy savings)
- More effective energy production (fuel-efficient supply systems).

It is cheaper to save one kilowatt hour than to expand power stations to produce one more. For the same reason firms in many countries now give financial support for electricity saving by consumers, in the form of low-interest loans and price discounts on power-saving household equipment and lighting systems. Separate studies have shown that a total of over 50% of electricity consumption could be saved by means of existing technology.

Electricity consumption in the home can be brought down by 75% if the systematic development and general availability of electricity saving technology is made a priority. (See T. Haaland and others: Miljøets Energi. Danmarks Naturfredningsforening 1989).

### Savings on heating

Significant savings can be made in heating by means of better insulation of existing and new buildings. If walls, lofts and floors are thoroughly insulated and windows are triple glazed, the heating requirement can typically be brought down to a third. In new houses the need for heat input based on coal, oil or natural gas can often be reduced to nearly zero (C. Flavin and A.B. Durning: Building on Success. World Watch Institute 1989).

One collective measure which can be taken is the reduction of the supply pipe temperature in water based district heating systems, which can reduce fuel consumption for heating. Another collective measure is a ban on the use of electricity for heating.

The EC building directive should be extended to ensure that subsequent standardization in the CEN is based as far as possible on energy saving measures.

### Transport and traffic

There is currently an enormous growth in the consumption of petrol and oil products in the transport sector. The rate of growth is higher than in any other area. Fuel consumption can gradually be restricted by the introduction of more fuel economic engines, speed limits, and the use of alternative power

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sources such as electricity, alcohol and natural gas. But motor traffic is increasing so quickly that these technical measures will not be effective. A direct limitation of the quantity of traffic by a combination of restrictions (driving bans, road tolls, abolition of parking spaces and the like) and incentives (better and cheaper public transport, more use of bicycles, etc.) is necessary and urgent if the transport sector is to make its contribution to sustainable growth.

#### Increased efficiency

The traditional separation of electricity generation (from large central power stations) and heat generation is the most inefficient but unfortunately the most widespread form of production. Electricity and heating should be produced together in power stations.

The smaller the power station is, the closer it can be placed to the consumer - and the more effective the distribution/transmission system can be, since production can be tailored to suit local electricity and heating requirements. Experience in West Germany, which has set up several hundred very small block power and heating stations, is encouraging both from the technical and the economic point of view.

The lowest fuel consumption per electricity unit produced has been obtained in the so-called LOCUS systems (Local Co-generation Utility Systems). Here the relationship between electricity and heating production is completely flexible, and the system, by combining chemical energy (fossil fuel or biomass) with wind power, can, as well as storing energy, reduce the necessary fuel input per producer and electricity unit to less than a tenth of a traditional coal-fired power station. (T. Haalund and others: Miljøets Energi. Danmarks Naturfredningsforening 1989).

#### SUSTAINABLE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Sustainable and renewable energy sources do not immediately have the same potential to solve this problem as the practical energy savings, but they represent the only ecologically viable sources of supply in the long term, and therefore their use calls for much more active consideration than it has received so far.

#### Wind power

The state authorities in Denmark now maintain that wind power is a fully competitive energy technology in the private sector. About 2,300 wind power installations had been built by 1988, and the Danish electricity companies are currently involved in running or constructing up to 40 wind parks, each with a considerable number of windmills. Danish manufacturers of wind power stations are now exporting more and more to the USA, the Soviet Union and a long list of other countries. Experience in Denmark - which should prove useful to the Community - is that renewable energy technology can both play an important role in energy production and be commercially attractive to produce.

### Hydrogen

Studies might be carried out on hydrogen as an energy source. For example, it is possible to produce hydrogen by means of windmills and store it, and later produce electricity from it when it is needed. Another possible use of hydrogen is in the transport sector.

### Solar power

Electricity-producing solar cells have fallen in price by 90% over the last ten years and now constitute a competitive electricity source in country areas in developing countries. The cost is expected to fall still further, which will make this energy source competitive in EC grids. In the meantime, the cooperation and support of the public authorities may be required in order to shorten the technological development time sufficiently to enable firms to survive and solar electricity eventually to play a role in energy consumption.

### Biomass

Energy produced by biomass obviates the need for fossil fuels and solves a number of environmentally difficult waste problems. Agricultural surpluses of dung, straw and the other combustible waste of society can be used in energy production. In Sweden, these and other biomass fuels (woodchips) now cover 15% of the total energy requirement. In Denmark it is also clear that biomass resources could come to cover 15% of present energy needs. (Decentral kraftvarme - regionale oplæg om kraftvarmeværker. Energistyrelsen. Copenhagen, November 1989).

### Water power

Water power has long been the most important renewable energy source. Worldwide this use has expanded by nearly 3% a year, and now 21% of the world's electricity consumption comes from hydroelectric power. Theoretically, the EC would offer considerable expansion potential, but in many cases this would result in destruction of the landscape which makes the justification of such expansion doubtful. Wave energy and tidal energy should be given much greater consideration.

### Cleansing

The strategy of cleansing is one which has its limits. It can be argued that cleansing technologies merely alter environmental problems rather than solving them. The treatment of power station smoke to remove SO<sup>2</sup> creates, in the case of the most commonly used methods, a considerable quantity of solid waste containing heavy metals, which implies disposal problems and the risk of water pollution through the leakage of poisonous materials. Cleansing plants themselves often require a large amount of energy and contribute to the growth of energy consumption. Significant investments in treatment systems and even the very existence of a cleansing industry may help to preserve the fossil-fuel energy system. Cleansing strategies must be regarded as a necessary provisional solution. Modern systems for the removal of both SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> are being installed in all the power stations in the Community.

## Nuclear energy

Nuclear energy has been mentioned as a partial solution to the problem of the greenhouse effect because uranium fission does not cause any discharge of carbon dioxide. There are, however, now many serious reasons for not considering nuclear energy. On the contrary, active measures should be taken to promote the abandonment of nuclear energy in those countries where it is still in use.

A nuclear energy programme big enough to cut down the greenhouse effect would need an expansion programme ten times bigger than anything which the world has yet seen. According to the World Watch Institute a new nuclear power plant would have to be built every three days for the next four years simply to reduce the discharge of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuel combustion by 20%.

Nuclear energy suffers from serious unsolved problems regarding safety and the storage of radioactive waste, and there is an inherent unacceptable risk of an increased proliferation of nuclear weapons and fissile material. Countries such as Denmark, Ireland and Greece have long decided not to introduce nuclear energy. Sweden, Austria and Italy have decided to give it up and in West Germany the building programme has effectively come to a halt.

The EC must coordinate efforts towards the abandonment of nuclear energy and freeing the enormous economic resources currently committed to languishing nuclear reactor projects. The most unsafe nuclear power plants must be closed immediately.

## Tax considerations

The price of energy is a decisive factor in energy consumption. The relative prices of various forms of energy also have a decisive influence on the demand for the various energy sources. The introduction of an energy and environment tax, either at national or Community level, may encourage people to adopt a better attitude towards energy and the environment. Energy-saving measures and adjustments to supply may be brought about by grants, taxes, fiscal advantages and favourable funding conditions.

Changes in the level of the energy price have an effect on:

- energy consumption behaviour
- the viability of energy saving measures
- the choice of energy systems at the time of installation or renovation
- changing from one energy system to another.

The harmonization of energy taxation will have a decisive effect on environmental improvements. The Commission ought to work a CO<sub>2</sub> tax into its proposal for harmonized energy taxation.

The energy sector will create environmental problems if costs are not reflected in prices. These problems concern damage to forests, lakes, buildings and human health. In practice, it is extremely difficult or impossible to make an objective assessment of the 'external costs' of energy consumption. What level of taxation can in principle be justified from the point of view of environment and resources is therefore largely a political question.

One way of reconciling socio-economic and consumer-economic costs is to change energy taxation and introduce a number of emission taxes to be imposed on all polluting fuels, the amount of the tax to be in proportion to the quantity of the emission. Any energy purchase would in principle contain the price of pollution. If the form of combustion had been cleansed of sulphur dioxide, for example, the tax would be reduced accordingly.

It is the consumption of scarce resources and the pollution caused by combustion which are being taxed. It would be possible and could be financially worthwhile to reduce ones taxes by taking anti-pollution measures or by going over to cleaner fuel or renewable sustainable energy sources. Equality must be created in competitive terms so that the same tax is paid per quantity of pollution irrespective of the type of fuel. The use of fossil fuel must be taxed equally, regardless of whether the fuel is burnt by a private household or an industrial undertaking. The latter must therefore also be required to pay an emission tax, the proceeds of which can be used for tax relief elsewhere.

### Regulations

In some areas, energy costs are either such an insignificant factor for the consumer - and therefore do not interest him - or his technical and financial capacity is so low, that it makes more sense to use regulations and orders/prohibitions. On the other hand, there are institutional barriers - e.g. the rule that the energy consumer is not financially accountable for the amount of his consumption - which stand in the way of such regulations.

The EC has adopted a framework directive on the indication by labelling of energy consumption (79/530). The work of energy labelling should be intensified, and might be supplemented by actual requirements concerning energy controls in industry, etc.

### Research and development

If new and environmentally acceptable technology is to succeed, we must do more to assist it. Most of the technology required has been discovered, but is still far from the commercial stage. It will need targeted support for development, research, demonstration and marketing.

Moreover, it is important to have a long term energy policy to enable firms to have confidence that technology development projects will be followed by a reasonable period of stable marketing opportunities.

At their council meeting in December 1989 the EC research ministers adopted the third framework programme for 1990-94. The Council reduced the budget proposed by Parliament from 8.2 bn to 5.7 bn ECU for the coming years. The Council set aside 518 m ECU for the environment programme - and allotted the nuclear energy sector 80% of appropriations in the energy field.

This kind of priority in the use of the EC's research funds is quite unacceptable. As described above, nuclear energy cannot make any substantial contribution to averting the greenhouse effect. It is therefore useless to continue committing the largest proportion of the Community's research funds in this area. Different priorities should be given to the allocation of funds in order to reflect the wish to develop sustainable and renewable energy sources and energy technology, to increase possibilities of saving electricity



for consumers. In addition, a start should be made on developing better cleansing technologies. The EC should give priority to the question of climatic research and the greenhouse effect in relation to emissions from the energy industry.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION (Doc B3-0223/90) pursuant to Rule 63 of the Rules of Procedure by Mr Collins and others on energy and the environment

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The European Parliament,

- mindful of the environmental implications of energy production and utilisation technologies,
- 1. Welcomes the Commission's increasing concern with this issue;
- 2. Calls for Parliament's views to be given more consideration in the long term strategy to assess the environmental impact of different energy production systems, and to develop environmentally friendly energy technologies;
- 3. Instructs the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection to keep abreast of developments in this area.