

Contribution to the debate on the Green Paper  
Towards a European strategy for the security of energy supply

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What are you areas of interest?	R&D and Innovation in the energy field
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Please add your answers after the question(s) which deal most closely with the subject(s) on which you wish to comment so that the Commission can deal with the remarks efficiently and swiftly.

1.	<p>Can the European Union accept an increase in its dependence on external energy sources without compromising its security of supply and European competitiveness? For which sources of energy would it be appropriate, if this were the case, to foresee a framework policy for imports? In this context, is it appropriate to favour an economic approach: energy cost; or geopolitical approach: risk of disruption?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
2.	<p>Does not Europe's increasingly integrated internal market, where decisions taken in one country have an impact on the others, call for a consistent and co-ordinated policy at Community level?</p> <p>Answer: A consistent and co-ordinated policy at Community level is absolutely necessary.</p>

3.	<p>Are tax and state aid policies in the energy sector an obstacle to competitiveness in the European Union or not? Given the failure of attempts to harmonise indirect taxation, should not the whole issue of energy taxation be re-examined taking account of energy and environmental objectives?</p> <p>Answer: In our opinion the state aid policies are necessary in order to increase Renewable Energies penetration and the common environmental objectives. In this case they would not be an obstacle to competitiveness. Although, the harmonisation of indirect taxation is needed in the next future.</p>
4.	<p>In the framework of an ongoing dialogue with producer countries, what should supply and investment promotion agreements contain? Given the importance of a partnership with Russia in particular, how can stable quantities, prices and investments be guaranteed?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
5.	<p>Should more reserves be stockpiled - as already done for oil - and should other energy sources be included, such as gas or coal? Should the Community take on a greater role in stock management and, if so, what should the objectives and modalities be? Does the risk of physical disruption to energy supplies justify more onerous measures for access to resources?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
6.	<p>How can we develop and ensure better operation of energy transport networks in the European Union and neighbouring countries so as to enable the internal market to function properly and guarantee security of supply?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
7.	<p>The development of some renewable energy sources calls for major efforts in terms of research and technological development, investment aid and operational aid. Should co-financing of this aid include a contribution from sectors which received substantial initial development aid and which are now highly profitable (gas, oil, nuclear)?</p> <p>Answer: We consider that it is necessary to increase a lot the efforts (and the support of the European Commission, the utilities and the National Government as well) in terms of R&amp;D. The “clean use” of coal needs to be fomented and it would be highly profitable in the future with the necessary R&amp;D activities.</p>
8.	<p>Seeing that nuclear energy is one of the elements in the debate on tackling climate change and energy autonomy, how can the Community find a solution to the problem of nuclear waste, reinforcing nuclear safety and developing research into reactors of the future, in particular fusion technology ?</p> <p>Answer:</p>

9	<p>Which policies should permit the European Union to fulfil its obligations under the Kyoto Protocol? What measures could be taken in order to exploit fully potential energy savings which would help to reduce both our external dependence and CO2 emissions?</p> <p>Answer: Policies in order to foment and to support the energy saving are strongly needed at present.</p>
10.	<p>Can an ambitious programme to promote biofuels and other substitute fuels, including hydrogen, geared to 20% of total fuel consumption by 2020, continue to be implemented via national initiatives, or are co-ordinated decisions required on taxation, distribution and prospects for agricultural production ?</p> <p>Answer: Co-ordinated decisions and taxation, as well as new agricultural policies and programmes are necessary at EU level.</p>
11.	<p>Should energy saving in buildings (40% of energy consumption), whether public or private, new or under renovation, be promoted through incentives such as tax breaks, or are regulatory measures required along the lines of those adopted for major industrial installations?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, they should be promoted and carried out in a short term.</p>
12.	<p>Energy saving in the transport sector (32% of energy consumption) depends on redressing the growing imbalance between road and rail. Is this imbalance inevitable, or could corrective action be taken, however unpopular, notably to encourage lower use of cars in urban areas? How can the aims of opening up the sector to competition, investment in infrastructure to remove bottlenecks and intermodality be reconciled?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
13.	<p>How can we develop more collaborative visions and integrate the long-term dimension into deliberations and actions undertaken by public authorities and other involved parties in order to evolve a sustainable system of energy supply. How are we to prepare the energy options for the future?</p> <p>Answer:</p>
14	<p>Any other questions or proposals:</p> <p>Please, see the attached file.</p>

Thank you for replying to this questionnaire.