

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

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| Name                            | Sakis Galigalis                                |
| Organisation                    | Management Consultant (Freelancer)             |
| What are you areas of interest? | Energy Demand Management                       |
| Contact person                  | Sakis Galigalis                                |
| E-Mail                          | <a href="mailto:agali@tee.gr">agali@tee.gr</a> |
| Telephone                       | +30 1 6528 477<br><br>6521 372                 |
| Fax                             | +30 1 6528 477                                 |
| Address                         | Reppa 58,<br><br>156 69 Papagos,<br><br>Greece |

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.

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| 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:</p>   |

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| 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: Energy taxation is certainly a very serious instrument, to help EU to use energy less inconsiderately, than currently. With the complexities of current life, its not easy to accurately predict the response of people and the economy in general, to a given taxation system. For this, energy taxation needs review, not just once. It rather needs a system of regular review of its current effectiveness, with a view to make the most of its potential contribution.</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:</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</p>   |

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|     | <p>savings which would help to reduce both our external dependence and CO2 emissions?</p> <p>Answer: Primarily the policies should be of demand management. There is significant potential, in my mind, to reduce energy consumption by persuading people to reconsider the way we have come to live. Shaking people's beliefs on the "attractions" of the life style of our contemporary affluent society, I expect to handsomely reduce energy consumption. In general, I would expect such policies to be much more cost effective options than most of the known supply side policies for energy conservation.</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:</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:</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: Energy savings in the transport sector depend, primarily on the much broader issue of encouragement of <b>public</b> against <b>private</b> transport. Of course, the imbalance between road and rail transport is part of the problem. EU energy policies in transport have been and continue to be notoriously balanced in favour of private transport, much to the detriment of energy consumption, environment and quality of life. The influence of dominant member states with vested interests in the automobile industry is apparent. What is the point of continuously further encouraging private transport, even with much cleaner and fuel efficient vehicles, when the existing roads are since long crammed? Information and communication technology can also help in reducing primary transport needs. We desperately need drastic revision of policies in the sector.</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>   |

We need to take energy demand management much more seriously than so far. We already have some experience in the field, e.g. the so-called “Green ideas”. We need to shift resources from supply to demand side management. We have to employ more psychologists, sociologists and communicators rather than engineers and economists to address peoples’ s believes. To make them ask themselves if by consuming or making use of more and more “useless” goods and services is going to make us any happier.... We shall this way be killing many birds with one shot...

Thank you for replying to this questionnaire.