

Opinion from the Romanian House of Representatives

Under the provisions of Art. 67 and Art. 148 of the Romanian Constitution, republished, of Law No 373/2013 on cooperation between Parliament and the Government for European affairs, and of Rules 160 to 185 of the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Deputies, republished,

The Chamber of Deputies hereby adopts this Decision:

Sole Article — having regard to Opinion 4c-19/204 adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 1 March 2016, the Chamber of Deputies

1. Welcomes the report from the European Commission, whereas:

Comprehensive — is a non-legislative document, which shall constitute a first progress report on the Energy Union initiative, launched by the European Commission which provides a snapshot of energy policies proposes a framework strategy for a resilient Energy and highlighting Europe's contribution to discussions in Paris and focuses on actions to be taken further;

— shows progress since the publication of the Energy Union Strategy (25 February 2015), identifies the issues that need to be taken into account in 2016 and formulate policy conclusions at Member State, regional and EU, for each of the five dimensions of the Energy Union;

— The European Commission undertook to produce an annual report also designed to focus the policy debate;

Annex — statement by its “Report on the implementation of the European Energy Security Strategy”, provides an update on the position of the EU in relation to energy security steps towards improving it;

— has the following main energy union coordinating energy policy characterised by solidarity and security of supply, improved energy infrastructure, and proposals for shaping a European-level diplomats;

Annex — published in the second European list of projects of joint interest which prioritise energy infrastructure development in Central and South-Eastern Europe;

— preparing an initiative at the EU level for the decarbonisation of transport

— Communication recommends supporting scientific research in parallel with measures stimulating social acceptance of new technology means renewable energy production as well as encouraging the involvement of business sector for moving as rapidly as possible to their placing on the market;

— the intention expressed by the European Commission is to devote particular attention to protecting vulnerable consumers and to improve data collection on energy poverty;

2. Supports the proposals of this document because:

— drawing up reports and working documents of the services of the European Commission, the Annexes of the report, aims to optimise the reporting obligations of the European Commission, examining progress made during the last nine months and identify challenges and future actions as well as key issues requiring increased political attention in 2016;

In presenting this report — are presented and the guidelines on how national plans for future integrated climate change and Energy of the Member States as well as the methodology and indicators for monitoring the actions required to meet the objectives Energy Union;

— presentation of progress towards the Energy Union on the 5 dimensions, to identify focal areas for action 2016 and the recommendations at Member State level (hereinafter: “MS”), at regional and European level generates a useful periodic mechanism evaluation as a tool both for each MS, which will focus on horizontal issues which require further actions and, subsequently, will set strategic energy objectives and for the European Commission to draw up realistic assessment on the potential of each MS to contribute to the general objectives of EU energy and environment;

— the new strategy focuses on enhancing energy solidarity between MS in order to counteract possible situations of risk in energy supplies, as well as efforts in shaping the concept of diplomacy Energética Ms — a common voice on energy.

3. Considers that:

— definition of policy measures are a responsibility of the Member States, who should take into account national circumstances specific to each Member State, efficient exploitation of indigenous resources, especially in areas where security is subject to energy vulnerabilities for geostrategic reasons and, accordingly, regional cooperation with Member States and consultation of the Commission are necessary and useful;

— it is important that Energy Union issues to be addressed regularly at the level of the European Council, to continue to have an open dialogue with the European Commission during the next stages of shaping the Energy Union and its associated governance system;

— the guidelines issued by the European Commission, to develop integrated plans for energy and the environment, is an appropriate starting point for the next steps in the process of completing national plans;

— the achievement of energy and climate change must be based on the final consumer, who pays the electricity bill;

— planning and reporting obligations, to be designed by European Commission, will be fixed so as to avoid creating additional administrative burden at Member State level;

—joint efforts to be undertaken on energy infrastructure development in vulnerable regions as a priority in terms of its Energy Security — Central and Southeast Europe.

4. WELCOMES:

Effort — Vice President of the European Commission, Mr. Maros Sefcovic, who has undertaken a tour of national capitals on opportunities and challenges of EU Energy Union, to enable European Commission services cooperation with competent national authorities in the process of finalising the country fiches;

— country fiches for each MS have been discussed and agreed with each MS and were accompanied by a SWOT analysis carried out for each MS;

— the fact that the document acknowledges the important role of the exploitation of renewables and other domestic sources of energy, the transition towards a competitive economy, with low emissions;

— priorities that will be pursued, efficient energy interconnections, internal market, research, innovation and competitiveness;

— the importance attached by document îmbunătățirii connection MS as regards access to capabilities LNG (liquefied natural gas);

— the importance attached by the European Commission to research, innovation and competitiveness for the EU and accelerating energy transition for the materialisation of the benefits in terms of jobs and growth that it may cause the Energy Union and recalls that it is imperative that SMEs receive valuable support and to benefit from these opportunities.

5. Draws attention to the following issues on which the European Commission should elaborate on these options:

— climate change mitigation and adaptation should represent distinct objectives and clear in order to avoid formalism and earn the trust of European citizens;

— the effects of market liberalisation in particular investment costs needed for decarbonisation and their impact on utility bills must be analysed and attent correlate with the total revenues of the population in the MS;

— the holistic approach — energy, economy and environment — to be performed in close connection with the economic reality of Member States, so as not to be affected domestic macroeconomic and social balance;

— a binding target at EU level of at least 27 % share of renewable energy by 2030 is extremely ambitious and may easily be compromised by the evolution of the price of energy from conventional resources worldwide, so that recommends studying the influence of energy prices from conventional sources on the prospects of reaching this target;

— the process shows signs of converging prices on wholesale markets (electricity), but the situation is different in the case of gas from effects of long-term contracts and a lack of

interconnections, the retail markets for both electricity and gas, are developed only at national level;

— cooling and heating together represent the largest energy consumption of the EU and expects the strategy envisaged by the European Commission for heating and cooling to pursue a smart transformation of this sector;

— the governance system must ensure that EU policy objectives in the field of energy and environment by ensuring the necessary flexibility for Member States, depending on their economic and social characteristics and fully respecting their freedom to determine their energy mix.

6. Considers that from the point of view of Romania needs to be deepened:

— solidarity and trust must represent the basic principles governing the actions taken at Member State and EU level and more attention should be paid to the energy security of the Union as the main pillar of the Energy Union;

— must be pursued, priorities efficient energy interconnections, internal market, research, innovation and competitiveness,

AGRI LNG project — Development — Black Sea area of particular importance for security of Energy — is an important way to diversify supply routes of natural gas to EU countries in the current circumstances of European uncertain supply routes;

— the development of major projects allowing diversification of gas supplies to Europe through the transport of natural gas extracted from the perimeters of the Caspian Sea Europe centre:

— enhance South Caucasus Pipeline;

— Construction of the Pipeline, Trans-Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP);

— Construction of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP);

— The build-up Interconnector Greece-Bulgaria (IGB).

— project development (corridor brua Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Austria), consisting of the construction of a new gas transmission pipeline which interconnects podișor technology node and SMG Horia (capacity-building in transport system between the Romanian system interconnections between natural gas transport and similar systems of Bulgaria and Hungary); This project will ensure an adequate degree of interconnections with neighbouring countries; create natural gas transport routes at regional level to ensure transport various gas from new supply sources, as well as infrastructure for the reception and transport of natural gas from off-shore boundaries in the Black Sea with the aim of exploiting them in the Romanian market and other markets of reguine and help to create integrated single market at EU level (the project requires an investment of around EUR 813 million, due in commissioning year 2019);

— in drawing up future national plans for energy and climate change it is important to consider conceptual flexibility compared to the reality of the energy system of each Member State;

— Transition to a low-carbon economy requires major investments in generation, networks, mainly Energy efficiency and innovation; Major efforts are needed for a better integration of renewable energy sources into the market and to ensure consistency between support schemes and the functioning of electricity markets;

— stresses the need for cross-border energy projects promoted to meet the objectives of diversification of sources, routes and suppliers, and in particular must be in full compliance with EU law;

— in the legislative field, will follow the various legislative initiatives at EU level, planned by the European Commission and presented in the action plan of the Energy Union;

— it is necessary to reaffirm their commitment to the collective effort to achieve the targets in a cost-effective manner, which should not undermine security of supply with its strategic major long-term energy priorities.

7. Calls for a more prudent view as regards the impact of measures in the fields of eco-design and energy labelling because potential to further reduce energy consumption need not be reflected implicitly in household energy bills, a multitude of social factors and market having a significant interference.

8. Expresses its support to the report on the state of the Energy Union, published by the European Commission on 18 November 2015 and presented at the Council of the EU of 26 November 2015, which show the advances made since the time of publication of the Energy Union Strategy (25 February 2015) and which is the subject of this Communication together with its annexes and identify which aspects need to be taken into account in 2016 and formulate policy conclusions at the level of EU Member States, at regional and European level, for each of the five dimensions of the Energy Union.

This decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at the session of 16 March 2016 in compliance with Articles 76 (2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.