

PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

JUDGMENT

**On the adoption of the opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions:
An EU strategy for heating and cooling
COM(2016)51**

pursuant to the provisions of Articles 67 and 148 of the Romanian Constitution, republished, of Law No 373/2013 on cooperation between Parliament and the Government in the area of 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-19/528 adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 17 May 2016, the Chamber of Deputies:

1. Considers that there is a need for stronger anchoring of the concept of energy efficiency in the proposed strategy.
2. Reaffirms the right of citizens to choose the desired solution for heating and cooling, based on specific local socio-economic preferences, additions of energy-efficiency criteria.
3. Recommends that the use of residual heat to be considered as a source of energy with low carbon footprint.
4. Stresses that this strategy for heating and cooling should take account of the development of smart cities.
5. Points out that energy efficiency for cooling and heating capacity must be provided in connection with such equipment to be repaired and recycled as required by the recent Union programming documents on the circular economy.
6. Warns that the expansion of the smart heating and cooling equipment in the buildings and smart cities, can contribute to strengthening a living environment that generate or amplifying the negative psycho-social effects in particular on children and calls for careful study of this risk.

This decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at the session of 15 June 2016 in compliance with article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

7. Recommends a detailed study of the impact of the proposed strategy on the market and raising the level of preparation of SMEs for integration of new concepts, research and production of devices and equipment components innovative heating and cooling.

8. Recalls that a proportion of the increased amounts of energy used for cooling is consumed in IT components, which are spreading increasingly widely, as a result of automation and expansion of internet of things and recommends supporting specific technologies in that sector that are energy efficient.

9. Recalls that part of the energy used for domestic heating comes from wood burning in States with a large rural area which was the case with Romania and finds that there is a strong motivation to maintain this way heating, at least on a foreseeable time horizon; environmental impact should be offset by increasing the proportion of renewable energy in other sectors.

10. Draws attention to the huge cost of the investments for the upgrading of district heating systems, especially in those Member States where they are run on a very large scale, and believes that there is a strong need for a Union financial support for retrofitting, so as to ensure the achievement of energy efficiency objectives in the foreseen time frame.

11. Recalls that until the spread of new technologies there is much potential of simple technical solutions such as metering roll-out of thermal energy to households connected to district heating systems, and recommends intervention at Union level to fund these solutions.

12. Supports the European Commission's initiative to support the training of professionals with expertise in building energy efficient and effective technologies based on renewable energy, in particular to practitioners who are "market makers".

13. Points out that although architects may include design techniques and advanced structural materials and smart technologies in all parts of buildings, in insulation, lighting, architectural plans need to incorporate and social aspects in the solutions adopted, and this element of increasing complexity will require adaptation plans specialised education, which may prove lengthy; In this period of adaptation is necessary in-depth impact assessment of social relief of new solutions and concepts.

14. Points out that some promising cooling technologies based on renewable energies using chemical compounds which should receive specific collection channels and re-use, to meet the requirements of the circular economy.

15. Draws attention to the fact that cooling technologies as based on the effect of cooling the impact on soil, soil poses in terms of biodiversity and the area is subject to increased anthropogenic pressure and, for this reason, recommends that the strategy proposed to be analysed from this point of view at Union level to 3-5 years since its adoption.

16. Recommends that the European Commission examine the possibility of introducing financial instruments, such as grants for SMEs wishing to improve the energy efficiency of heating and cooling, given that, as a whole, the energy demand of the SME sector is considerable, but they have fewer resources and less access to finance for improvements, particularly in the first years following their establishment.

17. Inform the European Commission that, in line with an indication in the Communication, Romania has included heating sector in its energy strategy.

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18. Supports the Communication's objective of creating conditions for consumer participation in the benefits of changes in energy demand, in order to enable them to save money and calls on the European Commission to make use of all the possibilities to speed up this process.

19 Expresses its concern that, although the objective of promoting renewables in heating and cooling is repeatedly present in EU strategies, funding for this field, especially the financing of research, including in relation to heating and cooling, is still far from expectations, as well as promoting new concepts in the younger generations; Calls on the European Commission to undertake the necessary steps to increase resources allocated to scientific research in this area, in particular in the field of industry, including SMEs.

Florin IORDACH

President of the Camera Deputaților

Bucharest, 15 June 2016