

PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

JUDGMENT

on the adoption of the opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning measures to safeguard security of natural gas supply and repealing Regulation (EU) N° 994/2010 COM(2016)52

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-19/529 adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 17 May 2016, the Chamber of Deputies:

1. Considers that the Regulation will have a substantially positive impact, especially in terms of the supply of natural gas to households, even during periods of crisis or growing shortages.

2. Takes the view that the economic impact will depend on a number of factors such as transport companies' investment efforts, the role and nature of Interstate allocation mechanisms and definition of consumer protection.

3. Stresses that it is worth considering the location of Romania in a minority of Member States, i.e. States with significant own gas resources, which could attract potential significant socio-economic handicaps where compensation mechanisms are not developed in a fair manner.

4. Draws attention to the need to ensure a European legislative framework based on proportionate and non-discriminatory mechanisms providing for rights and obligations for Member States in a uniform and fair manner, adequately reflected both in costs and in benefits.

5. Reaffirms the need to describe in more detail the facilitating role of the European Commission in the overall process, beyond sharing best practices for organising regional cooperation and invites the European Commission to indicate in detail the concrete tasks incumbent upon it to guarantee security of supply of natural gas, on the basis of the role played on the overall coordination and responsibility to ensure that measures are mutually consistent.

Considers that the preventive efforts should be reflected more strongly in the responsibility of the European Commission.

6. Considers it necessary to issue a recommendation at Union level to address to uniform protection for SMEs in all Member States, even though it is up to each Member State to decide whether it will consider SMEs as "protected customers".

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 taking into account the costs of market measures in the event of a crisis supply, not only their shortages.
8. Insists on the priority of voluntary demand aggregation mechanisms in full compliance with WTO rules and with the Union competition rules for collective purchasing of gas.
9. Draws attention to the difficulties that would arise from the legal basis of and implementation of the principle of European solidarity, where it would take the form of civil protection assistance provided by Union or by Member States.
10. Recommends further strong incentives for change of gas supply through fuel and renewable energy, including through the development of Community networks and individual unconnected to the network (off-grid) as an accompanying measure to ensure security of gas supply.
11. Supports the need to create a permanent mechanism of consultation of Member States as regards operational grouping for joint action where affected the security of gas supply.
12. Expresses its concern about the predictability of the actions to be carried out in urgent cases, as long as it provides that in exceptional duly justified situations, Member States may be authorised to take action which deviates from those plans but are set on what criteria would be granted that authorisation.
13. Endorses the need to ensure supply for protected customers, mainly households, for which calls for a high level of protection.
14. Recommends the establishment of Union-wide minimum standards on the responsibilities of the manager or crisis team, in order to avoid the risk of establishing their role by different Member States, which would have a negative impact on the effectiveness of contingency plans.
15. Expresses its concern about the selection of the Regions for cooperation to ensure gas supplies mainly on the basis of the TEN-E Regulation, in view of the fact that, as the European Commission, this Regulation and the TEN-E Regulation have different objectives; Even if the size and composition of the regional groups were changed from TEN-E, changes were made as a result of general assumptions, which would require confirmed by a more in-depth analysis.

Florin IORDACH

President of the Camera Deputaţilor

Bucharest, 15 June 2016