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LIMITE

ENER 65  
ENV 189  
PROCOOP 71

REPORT

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from : Working Party on Energy (Attachés)

to : Permanent Representatives Committee

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No. prev. doc.: 13568/97 ENER 143 ENV 430 PROCOOP 144

No. Cion prop.: 7937/97 ENER 48 ENV 131 PROCOOP 39 – COM(97) 87 final

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Subject: Re-examined proposal for a Council Decision concerning a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community – ALTENER II

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1. On 23 May 1997 the Commission forwarded to the Council a proposal for a Council Decision concerning a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community – ALTENER II <sup>(1)</sup>.
2. This proposal is based on Article 130s(1) of the EC Treaty. Opinions were delivered by the European Parliament on 6 November 1997 <sup>(2)</sup>, by the Economic and Social Committee on 29 October 1997 <sup>(3)</sup> and by the Committee of the Regions on 18 September 1997 <sup>(4)</sup>.
3. The Commission forwarded an amended proposal <sup>(5)</sup> to the Council on 4 December 1997.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 192, 24.6.1997, p. 16.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No. C 358 of 24.11.97, p. 30.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No. C 19 of 21.01.98, p. 32.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ No C 379, 15.12.1997, p. 63.

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ No. C 29 of 27.01.98, p. 9.

4. On 19 January 1998 the Council adopted its Common position with a view to adopting Council Decision concerning a multiannual programme for the promotion of renewable energy sources in the Community (ALTENER II)<sup>(6)</sup>.
5. On 30 April 1998 the European Parliament voted 9 amendments during its second reading<sup>(7)</sup>.
6. On 5 May 1998 the Working Party on Energy examined the provisional re-examined Commission proposal. Three amendments to recitals 19, 20 and 26 of the Common position are proposed. The text of the amendments is recorded in Annex to this report.

The outcome of the discussions is as follows:

- 6.1. Recital 19: Delegations can accept the proposed amendment under the condition that the word "only" is deleted.
  - 6.2. Recital 20: Most of the delegations can accept the proposed amendment. One delegation has a reservation.
  - 6.3. Recital 26: No delegation can accept this amendment.
7. The present report is submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee for its agreement on amendments in view of, if possible, the adoption of the Council Decision by the Energy Council at its next session on 11 May 1998.

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<sup>(6)</sup> OJ No. C 62 of 26.02.98, p. 31.

<sup>(7)</sup> Not yet published in the OJ.

COMMON POSITION ADOPTED BY THE  
COUNCILRE-EXAMINED PROPOSAL FOR A  
COUNCIL DECISION

(19) Whereas the increased use of renewable sources of energy will have a positive effect both on the environment and on the security of energy supplies; whereas a high degree of international cooperation is desirable to achieve the best results;

(19) Whereas the increased use of renewable sources of energy will have a positive effect both on the environment and on the security of energy supplies; whereas only the free and large-scale development of renewable energy sources will make it possible fully to exploit their economic and employment potential; whereas a high degree of international cooperation is desirable to achieve the best results;

(20) Whereas a strengthened Altener II programme represents an essential instrument for developing the potential of renewable energy sources;

(20) Whereas a strengthened Altener II programme represents an essential instrument for developing the potential of renewable energy sources; whereas renewable energy sources should account for a reasonable percentage of the European internal energy market;

(26) Whereas a financial reference amount within the meaning of point 2 of the Declaration by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 6 March 1995 is included in this Decision for the entire duration of the programme, without thereby affecting the powers of the budgetary authority as they are defined by the Treaty;

(26) Deleted.

