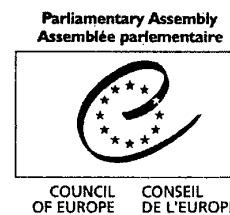


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REPORT

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ADDENDUM 1

Energy

The following texts were submitted for inclusion in the official report by members who were present in the Chamber but were prevented by lack of time from delivering them.

Ms PÉTURSDÓTTIR (*Iceland*) – The distinguished rapporteurs have produced two excellent and very timely reports on increasingly important issues which are inter-related, but, at the same time part and parcel of the same dilemma. Energy and its responsible utilisation is one of the basic foundations for prosperity, development, public welfare and, may I add, global security.

At the 2002 Summit meeting in Johannesburg on sustainable development, much of the discussion focused on energy matters. The emphasis was, and has been since, on how the role of renewable energy sources could be increased in order to reduce damage to the environment. Needless to say, some nations are rich in this respect, and others are less so. But as has been mentioned here, most countries have a potential to develop alternative sources of energy, and should be urged to make full use of those. Iceland, to take an example, has been very fortunate in this regard.

We Icelanders have lived with the geothermal activity of our country throughout the centuries and utilisation of geothermal heat has been an integrated part of our society for the last decades. For instance, nearly all Icelandic households use geothermal water for heating. It is Iceland's policy to increase the utilisation of renewable energy resources in harmony with the environment. All electricity production in Iceland – whether we look at hydro-power or geothermal energy – is carbon-free. The multiple use of energy is thus an important part of the quality of life in Iceland.

Today, geothermal use accounts for over 50% of the primary energy use of the country and hydro power accounts for around 18%. This means in fact that over 70% of Iceland's total primary energy comes from renewable energy sources – a situation which is unique in the world. In comparison, in the EU-25 the share of renewables in total energy production was 10.6% in 2002.

Iceland has also embarked upon a pioneering and inspiring hydrogen project in co-operation with others. The hydrogen economy is certainly the future and through co-operation in Europe, important steps can be taken. In recent months, Iceland has been paying special attention to the various elements of the framework for a hydrogen economy such as reducing taxes and tariffs on vehicles using hydrogen. In fact, we have the world's first public hydrogen fuel station and in the capital, some public transportation vehicles are using hydrogen.

In this context I stress that an efficient private-public partnership on a global basis is an essential issue on the road towards the hydrogen economy.

I mention this not only to marvel at what Iceland has achieved but rather to underline that all of the nations represented in this room, small nations or large, have the potential to contribute to solving the problems we have discussed. Together, through scientific, economic and political co-operation we will be able to lay a foundation for a prosperous future.

Mr. SZALAY (*Hungary*).—"The position of my country, Hungary, in the field of energy reflects in full scale Europe's growing energy vulnerability, the subject of the very remarkable report of Mr. Berceanu. Last year, Hungary's energy imports exceeded 65% and because of the gradual decrease of our domestic energy sources, all fossil energy sources, our dependence on energy imports will grow in the future.

The continuous degradation of this process cannot be curbed or eased and especially not reversed, but we are gaining ground with renewable sources of energy and advances in energy-saving or energy-efficient technologies. Both our national interest and our international--first of all European--engagements suppose that Hungary progresses in this direction to the highest degree ensuing from its natural conditions. Unfortunately, the latter are not in proportion to our intentions and wishes.

Hungary's targets for 2010, sanctioned by the EU, are very modest: 5% of electricity generated from sources; 3.6% for overall energy fields and 2% biofuels in the field of transportation. This does not reflect a low degree of willingness but rather the lack of local circumstances in the field of renewable sources of energy.

The accessibility and availability of renewable sources of energy is in the same way different and unequal in the world as that of fossils or even uranium.

This fact is somewhat neglected by the otherwise excellent and informative report by Mr. Etherington.

There are countries like Austria which are very rich in hydraulic energy sources due to their high mountains. Others, the plains countries, have nothing. Our specific hydroelectric reserves are 110000 kWh/km² - the last but one in Europe. The Netherlands is the only country which ranks behind us in this field. There are countries which have long sea shores with strong wind power which comes from a regular direction. Others have not. The wind potential in Hungary varies between 70 to 180 W/m² while on the sea shores of Denmark, The Netherlands or Germany it ranks between 6 to 800 W/m². There are southern, Mediterranean countries which enjoy abundant solar energy due to their geographical siting. Others have much less.

Therefore the role and weight of renewable sources of energy in the national energy balance of different countries will vary widely in the future, as they do today.

Because of that, Hungary certainly cannot afford to give up the use of nuclear energy. The Paks nuclear power station produces 41% of the overall electricity consumption of the country and without it we would fail also to fulfil our obligations arising from the Kyoto Protocol.

I am convinced that the nuclear option should be revived in some countries of the EU.

