

Resolution on the gas row

Bearing in mind that

- Due the gas row between Ukraine and Russia the transit supplies towards the EU Member States were suspended on 7. January;
- The debate seriously affected European energy supplies: in many Member States the industrial consumption was officially limited and thousands of citizens were left without proper heating. The disruption gas supplies shows the potential risks to European energy security;
- The European Union is much reliant to external energy sources. The import dependency is increasing; more than 80% of oil supplies and around 60% of gas supplies are covered by imports from outside the EU;
- The recent events clearly demonstrate the vulnerability of countries dependent on a single supplier;
- The energy import toward the European Union can be characterized by an opaque network of intermediary companies with uncertain background;
- That in its Strategic Energy Review published in 2008 the European Commission laid the grounds for steps to be taken in order to decrease the EU's dependency on external energy suppliers;
- The stability of energy market is a common interest of all countries;

The Youth of the European People's Party

- Calls on the European Commission and the Presidency of the European Union to play a more active intermediary role in the future disputes with a potential effect on the EU's supplies;
- Considers that the Energy Security and Solidarity Action Plan published by the Commission in 2008 properly focuses on the measures to be taken in order to ease Europe's dependence on external suppliers;
- Calls on the European Union to coordinate its actions in dealing with the main suppliers, and to strengthen the energy policy dimension of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. External energy relations must be based on transparency and reciprocity;

- Calls on the European Commission and the Member States to concentrate their efforts on the promotion of new infrastructure investments that facilitate the diversification of supplies (Mediterranean Energy Ring, Southern Gas Corridor, Liquefied Natural Gas, etc.). The diversification of gas supplies must be given high priority;
- Finds it essential that the European Union strengthen the crisis response mechanism with special emphasis on the early warning system. The enforcement of current oil and gas stock legislation might be a key element of the future solidarity mechanisms;
- Is convinced that the improvement of energy efficiency, by elaborating common European legislation, plays a prominent role among the measures to be taken. Raise the attention to the fact that in March 2007 the European Council made a commitment to achieve a 20% energy efficiency improvement by 2020; alternative energy sources like sun, wind and water been improved;
- Calls on the Member States to do their utmost to promote renewable energy forces. A significant growth in the share of renewable sources not only can ease the dependency but also contribute to the realization of the EU's ambitious plans to fight climate change laid down in the Climate Package adopted in December 2008;
- Believes that the current gas crisis is a test of the European solidarity. Therefore the Youth of the European People's Party calls on the Member States to concentrate their efforts to create a common EU energy policy based on solidarity, sustainability and competitiveness.

Adopted at the Council Meeting in Athens, 24 January 2009