



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 13 February 2012

**6103/12
ADD 3**

**ENER 43
ENV 79
POLGEN 18**

NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Council

No. Cion prop.: 17229/11 ECOFIN 804 SOC 1017 COMPET 534 EDUC 274 ENV 891
RECH 380 ENER 376 FISC 151 + ADD 1

Subject: Europe 2020 Strategy
- Policy debate
= Contribution from the Romanian delegation

Delegations will find attached a contribution from Romania on the above.

Romania's contribution to the policy debate on Europe 2020 Strategy

I. In light of the Annual Growth Survey 2012, what do you see as main obstacles to the achievement of the Europe 2020 energy objectives?

The achievement of Europe 2020 energy objectives requires coordination of all Member States' efforts through concerted actions aiming at ensuring security of „clean” and competitive energy supply, fighting against climate change and promoting the sustainable development concept.

The measures undertaken with a view to enhance energy efficiency and to increase the share of renewable energy sources, key factors for decreasing the greenhouse gas emissions level and, consequently, for reducing the negative impact of the industry on the environment necessitate significant efforts on both legislative and economic fields, but, mainly, in financial sector.

The transition to a low-carbon energy system requires substantial investments for modernising the current energy infrastructure and implementing „clean”, low carbon based technologies, as well as for promoting higher energy efficiency for buildings, products and services.

Currently, the investors, financiers and consumers' reluctance caused by the international economic and financial instability constitutes a major obstacle for investment decisions in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

As stipulated in the Annual Growth Survey 2012, restoring normal lending to the economy is a key factor on which all efforts should be focused both at national and European Union level, as restricted access to finance is a major barrier to the achievement of the Europe 2020 Strategy objectives.

The financial restrictions include, also, the budgetary funds sector, their insufficiency posing a real threat to the fulfillment of the energy and climate change objectives.

In this context, Romania supports the „Annual Growth Survey 2012” considerations according to which a particular attention should be paid to prioritising public expenditure in fields with high potential for growth and labour market, as energy, as a measure with high potential for fighting against the negative consequences of the current financing restrictions, both budgetary and private.

II. In your view, which measures in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy have the biggest potential to contribute to growth and job creation and should thus be prioritised?

In the context of developing a competitive European economy, based on the concept of sustainable development and job creation, promoting energy efficiency is a priority, due to its significant potential for creating new business opportunities and, consequently, for drawing the necessary private funding.

Romania considers that increasing energy efficiency of buildings represents a measure with major impact for growth and job creation, taking into consideration the huge potential for energy saving in the buildings sector.

However, in austere times, the implementation of specific programmes in this field becomes more and more problematic, even though their necessity is being acknowledged and welcomed.

Also, the promotion of high efficiency cogeneration leads to growth and job creation through savings of conventional energy sources, lower energy bills for consumers and improving the security of energy supply.

The renewable energy sources sector represents, also, a dynamic field, with high potential for growth and, implicitly, positive implications on economic growth and job creation.

The modernisation of energy infrastructure constitutes one of the top priority actions with a significant contribution to labour market evolution, particularly, through the development of smart electricity grids and the establishment of energy storage capacities for ensuring continuity as needed in unfavorable times.

New investments and, also, the required ones for the modernisation of hydroelectric plants and the implementation of inovative technologies in the field of wind energy, solar and biomass, on one hand, generates substantial opportunities for growth and jobs and, on the other, constitutes one of the key solutions for fulfilling the 2020 energy objectives.