



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ



ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ
ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ
ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΣ &
ΚΛΙΜΑΤΙΚΗΣ
ΑΛΛΑΓΗΣ

Γραφείο Τύπου

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Significant progress in the Energy Council under the chairmanship of Yannis Maniatis

Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Yiannis Maniatis, chaired the EU Energy Council, today Friday, 14th June, in Luxembourg. Commissioner Günther Oettinger was also participated on behalf of the European Commission.

The Council reached a political agreement on the proposal for a Directive on Indirect Land Use Change, (ILUC) for a sustainable development of biofuels in the future.

The Greek Presidency has focused mainly on two aspects of the proposal:

- strengthening advanced biofuels (those made from straw, waste, biomass, algae etc. and are characterized by low impact of indirect land use change on greenhouse gas emissions), while providing flexibility for member states - and
- strengthening aspects of the proposal for ILUC values and potential impact of EU policies on the environment, agriculture and climate change, to biofuels.

Furthermore, there was a political dialogue concerning the major energy challenges of the EU's. The discussion focused on the Commission's information on the state of completion of the internal energy market, on the presentation of the new Commission communication on a European Energy Security Strategy and on the 2030 climate and energy framework.

The eight key - pillars for our new European Energy Security Strategy include:

1. Increase of the European capacities to deal with the prospect of a major supply disruption next winter,
2. Strengthening of emergency/solidarity mechanisms and protection of critical infrastructure,
3. Moderate energy demand,
4. Building a well-functioning and fully integrated internal energy market,
5. Increase indigenous energy production in the European Union,
6. Further developing energy technologies,
7. Diversify external supplies and related infrastructure, and
8. Improve coordination of national energy policies and speak with one voice in external energy policy, towards a 'Europeanisation' of energy, while maintaining the necessary flexibility and respecting national priorities, conditions and energy mixes.

On interconnections, there was an agreement that more needs to be done to achieve a truly integrated internal market, as well as to enhance energy security for addressing short-

term emergencies. Energy Ministers also confirmed the important role of projects of common interest (PCIs) and the need to accelerate those of more immediate relevance to security of supply makes sense, without prejudice to the completion of the whole list of projects.

In parallel, a discussion took place on issues related to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine during the lunch. In this context, the Secretary General of the Energy Charter Ambassador Rusnak informed the EU Energy Ministers.

Minister Giannis Maniatis stated:

"There was a general consensus on the important potential of energy efficiency and energy saving as an important energy deposit of the European Union that can be used with very little cost compared to other costly options and that can significantly contribute to reducing energy dependency and boosting growth and employment. For these reasons we are waiting for the Commission's review report, later in 2014, concerning the implementation of the relevant directives and the perspectives in qualitative and quantitative terms.

The Council adopted unanimously conclusions on energy prices and costs, on protection of vulnerable consumers and competitiveness of the energy industry.

These conclusions are an important and highly topical political message and commitment for the European Union towards forming a gradually cheaper and more competitive energy sector, at a time when the economic crisis has not yet run its course, the energy global competition is exacerbated at global level, and the European citizens, in particular households, vulnerable consumers and small and medium sized enterprises and energy-intensive industries continue to suffer from high prices of electricity and natural gas".