

# Parliament wants clear targets for future EU energy policy

(excerpts from text of EurActiv: <http://www.euractiv.com>)

The European Parliament adopted the Eluned Morgan report on the Commission's Green Paper on a European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy on 14 December 2006. MEPs recommend setting binding targets for greenhouse-gas reduction and energy efficiency. They also expressed support for more use of renewables but left the decision whether to use nuclear power to member states.

The Parliament's resolution foresees the following concrete targets:

- 30% **CO2 reduction** by 2020 and 60-80% by 2050;
- 25% of primary energy production from **renewables** by 2020 and a road map to reach 50% by 2040;
- **energy efficiency** improvements of 20% by 2020.

Parliament also recognises the role that **nuclear energy** can play in the energy mix of some member states, but leaves it up to the individual countries to decide on the future of nuclear power. A proposal pushed by the nuclear lobby to generate 60% of Europe's electricity from "non-carbon emitting technologies" was defeated.

Green MEP **Claude Turmes** said: "The EP has today sent a strong message that climate change must be the bottom line for EU energy policy, and that energy efficiency and renewables should get prime place in the forthcoming EU energy strategy review."

EREC, the **European Renewable Energy Council**, welcomed the EP targets on the use of renewables. However, it warned that an upcoming renewable energy road map to be proposed by the Commission in January will not live up to the Parliament's ambitions. According to a draft version of the road map seen by EREC, the Commission would propose a new binding target for renewable energies at 20% of the EU's overall energy consumption by 2020, a level significantly higher than the current target, set at 12% for 2010. But industry observers and Brussels diplomats say this will not go through, since only Germany and Denmark have so far supported it.