

Your profile (compulsory)

I'm a citizen

I'm an organisation/stakeholder ✓

Quaker Council for European Affairs, Contact: Martina Weitsch

A. Competitiveness and the internal energy market

1. In order to achieve the goal of a genuine single market, what new measures should be taken at EU and MS level? (optional)

Reinforced separation of network operation from production and supply (unbundling)

Reinforced powers and independence of national regulatory authorities

Harmonised grid access conditions (European Grid code) ✓

Create a European Energy Regulator ✓

Create a body of transmission system operators at EU level

OTHER ✓

Comments:

We agree that it is necessary to have a European Energy Regulator but we would like to emphasize that this role needs to have a sustainability remit and that this must be a key priority in the overall remit of the role.

We believe firmly that it is necessary to develop shared vision, goals and a sense of mutual responsibility at EU level as a context for a viable single market. We need shared approaches to promoting energy conservation and renewables, so that cheap fossil- and subsidized nuclear-based suppliers don't undercut more responsible suppliers.

Suppliers of green energy should be able to compete on a level playing field. Priority should be given to energy sources that do not generate CO₂ bearing in mind that there are or may be substantial CO₂ emission's associated with non-fossil fuel energy sources.

2. In order to develop a single European grid, what should a "European Grid Code" contain? (optional)

Security rules ✓

Balancing rules ✓

Capacity allocation rules (congestion management) ✓

Transparency rules ✓

OTHER ✓

Comments:

We would particularly like to support transparency rules.

We would like consideration to be given to an agreed approach on how to deal with intermittent renewables and to the buy-back from self-generating consumers.

3. Apart from ensuring a properly functioning market, how can the EU stimulate investments in infrastructure and generation capacity? (optional)

Accelerate authorisation procedures in the Member States ✓

Promote more cooperation between Member States ✓

Increasing transparency in the market ✓

Increase the share of EU financial support

OTHER ✓

Comments:

With regard to accelerated authorization procedures we would support this only on a selective basis, i.e. for renewables and combined heat and power.

We believe that there is a need for easier market entry for new renewable suppliers.

4. How can it be ensured that all Europeans enjoy access to energy at reasonable prices? (optional)

Establish integrated and competitive electricity and gas markets

Focus on cost effective savings of energy ✓

Diversify the energy mix ✓

Use more renewable energies ✓

Promote efficient energy services ✓

Decrease dependency on imported fuels

OTHER ✓

Comments:

Whilst we agree that effective saving of energy is a critically important aspect of an energy policy, the terms 'cost effective' in this point concerns us. This might imply that where the immediate costs outweigh the immediate benefits energy saving might not be deemed cost effective.

We do not go along with the underlying assumption that would appear to lie behind this question. Yes, it is important to ensure that all European are able to meet their basic energy needs including energy services such as warmth, light, access to jobs and services. But the priority should be reducing the energy required to meet those needs, through much better building design and upgrading, passive solar design and cooling, and urban design to minimize transport needs and so on.

5. How can the internal energy market contribute to maintaining employment levels? (optional)

By ensuring low energy prices and thus increasing the competitiveness of our industry

Through the implementation of the Trans-European Energy Networks

By attracting investments in the energy sector

OTHER ✓

Comments:

By promoting both energy conservation measures and renewable energy supplies, both of which will involve employment.

Any other comments on the chapter "Competitiveness and the internal energy market"? (optional)

The Green Paper and the questions posed in this consultation are, in our view too one-sided and too market and growth oriented. To address the energy issues which face humanity (and not just European citizens and European business) in the 21st century requires a more substantial response which will need to include significant life-style changes.

There have been three main approaches to energy policy in recent years:

The first approach sees the world in terms of physical power and strength, conflicting interests and ideologies, "right" and "wrong", and "good" and "evil". This is a world of short-term threats and fears, where other people are dangerous and need to be brought under control. This worldview has little room for long-term issues such as climate change and the problems of nuclear waste, but it is concerned to establish dominance over countries possessing significant energy reserves.

The second approach sees the world in terms of a globalising competitive market. This worldview is concerned with market failures and imperfections and sees environmental issues as externalities to be internalised through market instruments. It seeks strategies for the efficient exploitation and allocation of scarce resources; developing better technologies and techniques for deriving final energy services from those resources; and finding ways to ensure that everybody's basic needs are met, or perhaps to maximise the well-being of society overall.

The third approach sees the ecological context as primary. From this point of view, natural resources are part of a complex, vulnerable and poorly understood system, rather than commodities to be extracted and traded. But there is a growing clarity that the system is being irreversibly damaged and may be approaching a catastrophic change or "tipping point". The goal of policy here is to change human behaviour to live within the carrying capacity of the Earth, but in this worldview people have shown no sign in the past of making sensible choices when behaviour changes are needed.

Perhaps the most important feature of the dialogue among these three worldviews is that none of them sees real scope for a conscious change in behaviour.

A Quaker response starts from a different place. We seek to respond to "that of God" in everyone. That means engaging people as moral agents, able to make choices for a better way of living and a better society.

We are concerned that the underlying tenor of the Green Paper is one which emphasises the role and dominance of a globalized market with a degree of power politics thrown in. It has a passing thought for the environment - so long as this is 'affordable' in terms of the implications for growth and wealth. There is little room in it for engaging people as moral agents, for asking all to make choices for a better way of living in a better society the world over.

B. Solidarity

6. What can the Community do to prevent energy supply crises? (optional)

Protect energy infrastructure against natural catastrophes and terrorism ✓

Develop smart electricity networks, demand management and distributed energy generation, bearing in mind their potential to help at times of sudden shortage ✓

Cooperate on network security among transmission system operators, including the development of common security and reliability standards

Establish an observatory mechanism to identify likely shortfalls in supply and infrastructure at an early stage ✓

Review existing Community legislation on oil stocks

Introduce EU legislation on gas stocks to ensure solidarity among Member States in the event of a shorter-term emergency gas supply disruption

Enhance dialogue with major energy suppliers/consumers ✓

OTHER ✓

Comments:

With regard to smart energy networks, we would put particular emphasis on microgeneration from renewables.

With regard to the enhanced dialogue with energy suppliers and consumers we would recommend in particular to develop an effective strategy for energy efficiency and conservation, and for enabling consumers to install renewable microgeneration, with adequate prices for electricity buy-back.

7. Which measures need to be taken at Community level to manage energy supply crises if they do occur? (optional)

A solidarity mechanism to assist a Member State facing difficulties following disruptions of its energy supplies under emergency circumstances ✓

A coordinated EU response in the event of an International Energy Agency decision to release emergency oil stocks

A coordinated mechanism for emergency demand restraint ✓

A coordinated mechanism to provide early notice and monitoring and to enhance response capabilities ✓

OTHER ✓

Comments:

With regard to the coordinated mechanism for demand restraint, we would like to see included emergency demand management measures, and strategies to ensure that societies can function effectively with radically reduced energy supply

Any other comments on the chapter "Solidarity"? (optional)

All policy decisions that are made now should be based on what the world will look like in 2100, according to the best available predictions of the consequences of climate change and global warming. Structures that we set up and installations that we build in the first half of the 21st century will have to function or be managed until 2100, and will be vulnerable to the consequences of climate change, including natural disasters. Reliability and security of supply require that we adjust to levels of demand that could be enjoyed sustainably by everyone, worldwide.

With regard to lifestyle change, we see no alternative to significant changes, which we can either choose to make now, or that will be forced on us later by the effects of climate change. The need to communicate this to the public in a way that produces a realisation of the dangers we all face and the need to change now cannot be over emphasised. The potential for change in lifestyles and behaviour is underestimated in the Green Paper.

We believe that solidarity must go wider than the EU and it must go wider than the European Neighbourhood. Unless there is fairness and equality in the distribution of energy at a level that the earth can sustain, energy policies will continue to contribute to conflict.

C. Diversification of the energy mix

8. What should the EU do to ensure that Europe, taken as a whole, promotes the diversification of energy supplies? (optional)

Use more indigenous energy sources ✓

Use more renewable energy sources ✓

Use more nuclear energy

Be leader in energy efficiency ✓

OTHER ✓

Any other comments on the chapter "Diversification of the energy mix"? (optional)

We would welcome the inclusion of conservation into the thinking here (i.e. behavioural change, as opposed to energy efficiency which usually means technological change).

With regard to any reliance on nuclear energy, we have deep concerns about the environmental, social, economic and political implications, especially internationally. We fear that the location of nuclear waste depositaries may be determined by the willingness of the local population to accept them (or their inability to resist them), rather than by geological and ecological suitability.

We would encourage dissemination of best practice globally, through mechanisms within the Framework Programmes to engage non-EU countries in developing novel forms and strategies of energy use.

D. Sustainable development

9. How can a common European energy strategy best address climate change, balancing the objectives of environmental protection, competitiveness and security of supply? (optional)

Focus on getting the widest possible international actions on climate ✓

Keep Europe at the forefront of energy technology and the policies needed to encourage change ✓

Consolidate Europe's position at the forefront of progress on efficiency and renewables ✓

Consolidate the Emissions Trading Scheme ✓

Do cost-benefit analyses of all new proposals ✓

OTHER

10. What is important for the further development of clean and renewable energy sources in the EU? (optional)

Reinforce Member State investments ✓

Introduce incentives at Community level ✓

Define long term targets and an action plan to promote renewable energy ✓

Further develop the EU Emissions Trading Scheme ✓

Increase R&D efforts within a Strategic European Energy Technology Plan ✓

OTHER

Any other comments on the chapter "Sustainable development"? (optional)

1. In developing sustainably, it is important to take into account the parts of the world and the parts of the world population in poverty and the implications of any development on them. The attainment of the Millennium Development Goals should be a major consideration in this context. Energy policy cannot and should not be divorced from development policy.
2. Where technological progress is made, particularly in ways that reduces demand for energy (be it through efficiency of the use of resources or changes in lifestyle which lead to less demand) should be made available fairly and on an affordable basis to developing countries.
3. Any cost benefit analysis proposed (and we would fully support a comprehensive CBA for all new proposals) must take account of the costs and benefits not only of EU citizens and businesses but also the costs and benefits to others in third countries. It must fully take into account the potential for causing or exacerbating conflict inherent in any new proposal.
4. There should initiatives which use the tax system more appropriately to disincentivise overconsumption. Pricing structure for residential energy should be inverted, so that more frugal households pay less per unit. This could be achieved through either regulatory or fiscal means.

E. Innovation and technology

11. What action should be taken at both Community and national level to ensure that Europe remains a world leader in energy technologies? (optional)

Build upon the proposed European Institute of Technology

Establish a Strategic European Energy Technology Plan

Consider ways to finance a more strategic approach to energy research and innovation programmes and budget ✓

Mobilise high-level stakeholders and decision-makers to develop an EU vision for the transformation of the energy system ✓

Develop leading markets for innovation

OTHER

12. Which topics/technologies should an EU energy technology strategy focus on developing? (optional)

CO ₂ Capture and Sequestration (CCS)	Enhanced Oil Recovery	Clean Coal (non-CCS)
Disposal of nuclear waste	Second generation biomass	Tidal and wave ✓
Solar ✓	Wind ✓	Fuel cells and hydrogen
Smart electricity networks	OTHER ✓	Geothermal

Any other comments on the chapter "Innovation and technology"? (optional)

Additional comments:

Innovation and technology are powerful resources to advance life-style changes which will ultimately lead to less energy consumption. Research funding should be made available specifically to projects which aim to do this.

We are particularly keen to support research into technologies which harness truly renewable resources (sun, wind, water, geothermals) without wishing to underestimate the potential risk associated especially with large hydro-electric dams both for the environment and in terms of safety from attack.

The development of biomass fuel needs to be considered carefully in the context of the competition between biomass production and food production (land use) and the environmental implications of transferring land use from forest to agriculture for the purpose of biomass fuel production. Both hold significant risks for people in terms of the degradation of the environment and in terms of food security. We would argue for an integrated land use strategy for food and energy, including questions of a healthy and sustainable diet (i.e. reduced animal products). We would put more emphasis on energy forestry (for combined heat and power and to substitute oil and gas as a chemical feedstock) rather than arable crops for transport fuel.

F. External policy

13. What should be the priority of a common external policy on energy? (optional)

Develop new partnerships with neighbouring countries of the EU

Develop new partnership with Russia

Develop new partnerships with important producer countries

Develop new partnerships with main consumer nations of the world

Incorporate climate change, energy efficiency and renewable energy sources into EU external relations ✓

OTHER ✓

Comments under this question:

European Energy Policy should be compatible with and support the Millennium Development Goals.

14. How can the Community and Member States promote diversity of supply, especially on gas? (optional)

By building new LNG terminals

By building new pipelines to producer countries in the Middle East and Central Asia

By building new pipelines to producer countries in (North) Africa

By introducing Community rules, such as that Member States should be able to rely on at least three different supply sources for each energy which they import (oil, gas, coal)

OTHER ✓

Any other comments on the chapter "External policy"? (optional)

We are disappointed and dismayed that the Green Paper has wasted the opportunity to look at the issue of energy production, transport, and use on a global and broad basis. There is no reference in the Green Paper to the potential for conflict arising from demand for and lack of access to energy resources. There is reference to the geopolitical risk for Europe from the fact that energy resources are imported from a limited number of countries and that a number of them are considered unstable. But the issue goes much further than this.

G. European energy policy

15. Do you agree that there is a need to develop a new, common European strategy for energy? (optional)

Yes ✓

No

Don't know

16. What should be the core principles of European energy policy? (optional)

Sustainability ✓

Competitiveness

Security of supply ✓

OTHER

17. What should be the core principles of individual energy policy initiatives at Member State and regional levels? (optional)

Sustainability ✓

Competitiveness

Security of supply ✓

OTHER

Any other comments on the chapter "European energy policy"? (optional)

In addition to the comments made above, we want to highlight again the risks of climate change, global warming, sea level rise and high energy weather events (storms). These will add additional pressure on resources for the construction of coastal defences and arrangements for new power and processing plant, many of which are located on coasts.

Climate change may well affect poorer countries even more adversely leading greater international stress. Lack of access to resources has the potential for causing conflict or fuelling conflict because of the increasing demand for energy globally.

The impact on other countries which the demand of industrialised countries has on poorer countries cannot be underestimated. Any energy related proposal needs to address this in detail in an initial conflict impact assessment.

Lack of access to secure energy supplies within the EU could lead to conflict within our own communities and disruption of urban and rural systems.

The wish to retain or gain control over fuel resources can lead and has led to war. Any energy policy for the 21st century must at least take this into account.

The Green paper focuses primarily on gas and electrical supplies for industrial and domestic use. There is little mention of transport. Below is an extract from the UK Energy Review Consultation paper.

'Working towards the inclusion of transport in emissions trading

There is no international agreement on how to allocate the emissions from international aviation or international shipping. These are, therefore, not included in either the Kyoto targets or the Energy White Paper's domestic targets. But it is clear that aviation in particular is making a growing contribution to climate change. The Air Transport White Paper forecast in December 2003 that by 2030 CO2 emissions from UK aviation could amount to about a quarter of the UK's total contribution to global warming¹¹. In December 2005 the EU Environment Council called on the Commission to bring forward a legislative proposal on including aviation in the EU emissions trading scheme.'

Whilst it may be difficult to achieve international agreement, the EU should move urgently to address the issue within Europe.

What is needed is an energy policy which focuses more on the reduction of demand and less on the security of supply for the EU.

How did you perceive this questionnaire? (compulsory)

Expectations met

Expectations not met ✓

No opinion

Comments (optional)

On the whole, we find this consultation disappointing. It is too closed in its questions, too prescriptive in the issues which respondents are invited to consider.

We are also disappointed by the Eurocentric and in our view rather short sighted approach to the Green Paper which all but ignores the potential and the necessity for far reaching life-style changes if the energy problem is to be resolved fairly for all the people of the world. It is important to start looking at how much is enough not from the perspective of the comfort and convenience of European citizens and business interests but from the perspective of responsible world citizenship.