Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Recommendation 939 (1982)[1]

United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981)

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Having regard to Recommendation 846 (1978) on energy and the environment, to Resolution 747 (1981) on human needs and the earth's resources, and to Resolution 748 (1981) on energy and the economy ;

2. Reaffirming that :

2.1. security of energy supplies is vital to the economic development of all countries ;

2.2. energy shortages are a serious threat to peace ;

2.3. for both economic and political reasons, dependence on oil (a non-renewable source of energy) must gradually be reduced ;

2.4. policies for the exploitation of new and renewable sources of energy, as well as for energy saving, must accordingly be encouraged ;

2.5. European energy policies must take into consideration the effort of the United Nations towards a new international economic order,

Pays tribute to the initiative of the United Nations in organising the Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981) ;

Endorses the basic principles of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilisation of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, based on recognition of the needs :

1. to achieve a peaceful transition from the present international economy based primarily on hydrocarbons to one based increasingly on new and renewable sources of energy, in a manner which is socially equitable, economically and technically viable, and environmentally sustainable ;

2. to ensure that this transition conforms with the principle of the sovereignty of each country over its natural resources, and also with its national priorities ;

Notes that the Nairobi Programme of Action has the merit of comprising a list of widely accepted priorities, together with coherent detailed proposals for their implementation, and could thus serve as an appropriate instrument for the development of a world strategy which could help to solve the long-term energy supply problems of every member of the international community ;

Welcomes the contribution of its own delegation, which made known the Council of Europe's activities in energy-related areas and prepared the ground for subsequent co-operation between the Council of Europe and UNIDO for the benefit of Third World nationals, several of whom took part in an intensive post-graduate course on energy and electronics (Reading, September 1981), held under the auspices of the Council of Europe ;

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1. Assembly debate on 26 and 27 April 1982 (1st and 2nd Sittings) (see Doc. 4874, report of the Committee on Science and Technology). Text adopted by the Assembly on 27 April 1982 (2nd Sitting).

Believes :

1. that all countries should bring their bilateral programmes of co-operation into line, as far as possible, with the Nairobi Programme of Action ;

2. that national efforts to this end must be matched by an overall effort for co-ordination at world level ;

3. that the co-ordination of bilateral projects and the search for complementarity between these projects and the multinational activities undertaken by the United Nations would be helped by the creation of a specific UN intergovernmental committee as recommended in the Resolution of the 36th General Assembly ;

4. that any system of financing energy projects should be primarily founded on technical and economic considerations ;

5. that the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions should be urged by Western governments, and in particular by member governments of the Council of Europe, to give priority within their budgets to the financing of new and renewable energy projects ;

6. that investments in developing countries for the promotion of such projects provide industrial opportunities for exports and employment in member countries ;

7. that such projects should also provide opportunities for investment by European private enterprise (industry, banks, financial institutions), and that co-operative ventures between private enterprise and bilateral or multilateral public agencies should be encouraged ;

8. that the Council of Europe should endorse the recommendation of the conference inviting international organisations to contribute to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action[2] and thus to achieve a more rational use of the means devoted by states to multilateral co-operation in the energy sector ;

Takes note with satisfaction of the positive reply of the Committee of Ministers[3] to Recommendation 886 (1979) on the organisation of post-graduate training modules in energy-related areas ;

Confirms the proposals contained in the report presented by its delegation to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development (Vienna, 20-31 August 1979), to the effect that the Council of Europe's contribution to development aid might inter alia take the form of co-operation in the energy sector with the United Nations and its specialised agencies ;

Accordingly recommends that the Committee of Ministers :

1. develop the programme of post-graduate training modules in energy-related areas of the Standing Conference on University Problems, taking special account of priorities set by the UN Nairobi Programme of Action for the development and utilisation of new and renewable sources of energy ;

2. set up a system of grants to facilitate access by nationals from the least well-endowed Council of Europe member states to the post-graduate energy training modules of the Standing Conference on University Problems, on the lines of the system already successfully operated for instructors undergoing further vocational training ;

3. strengthen co-operation to this end with the United Nations and its specialised agencies (UNESCO, UNIDO, Habitat, etc.) in devising programmes and securing the participation of grant-holding students and of experts from member or non-member states ;

4. invite member states to take account in their programmes of bilateral co-operation in the energy sector of the objectives, priorities and implementation proposals of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

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2. See its paragraph 74.
3. At its 338th meeting