



Resolution 979 (1992)¹

Agriculture's contribution to enhancing energy security and saving the global environment

Parliamentary Assembly

1. The Assembly is seriously concerned that the environment, the atmosphere, the earth's water resources, its forests and soil are increasingly being damaged by pollution resulting from the extraction, transport and burning of fossil fuels.
2. It is equally concerned at the important food surpluses and world trade imbalances in agricultural products at a high cost to taxpayers, while at the same time the overall economic situation of farmers has not improved, hence causing rural regions to be abandoned.
3. Recalling its [Recommendation 1092 \(1989\)](#), it reiterates that the use of agricultural land for the production of biomass for the energy sector would have a positive effect on rural employment and farmers' incomes, would reduce food surpluses and the need for subsidies as well as related imbalances on the world food markets, would increase energy autonomy and security, and would reduce the problems caused by the use of fossil fuels.
4. Consequently, and after having studied the potential of biomass and wind energy for clean and renewable energy production, the Assembly calls on the governments of member states and on the European Communities, through the adoption of a directive :
 - 4.1. to favour biomass cultivation and its use for energy production through policy reforms affecting all relevant sectors ; to re-orient the European Community's common agricultural policy and national subsidy policies from price and income support to short-term temporary assistance designed to implement the necessary transformation and investment measures in the agricultural sector for the production of bio-energy ; for this production, to use agricultural wastes as well as fast-growing energy plants so selected that they have little or no fertiliser needs, require a minimum of water, can be cultivated on poor soil and absorb a maximum of CO₂ (C4 plants) ;
 - 4.2. to give priority to international co-operation in research and development, and to the market introduction of bio-energy technology ; to allocate the necessary resources for promoting the wide-scale use of bio-energy ;
 - 4.3. to give priority to public-sector use of bio-energies and other renewable energies, and to set up pilot projects for this purpose ;
 - 4.4. to achieve a large-scale production of energy from renewable biomass resources within ten years, by favouring the use of clean energies through appropriate tax and subsidy policies ;
 - 4.5. to increase public awareness, through information campaigns, of the advantages of the wide-scale use of biomass and other renewable energies for the agricultural sector and for society as a whole.

1. Assembly debate on 7 February 1992 (26th Sitting) (see [Doc. 6536](#), report of the Committee on Agriculture, Rapporteur : Mr Scheer ; and [Doc. 6544](#)[Doc. 6544](#), opinion of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Development, Rapporteur : Mrs Verspaget). Text adopted by the Assembly on 7 February 1992 (26th Sitting).

