European Parliament rejects report looking to improve energy security

11 June 2015

The European Parliament voted against a report on the European Energy Security Strategy (EESS) which looked to prevent a major supply disruption during the 2014/2015 winter.

The report from the Industry, Research and Energy committee was developed in the context of a deteriorating security situation in Ukraine and widespread concerns about potential disruption of gas supplies.

Actions included in the report:

- Strengthen emergency/solidarity mechanisms
- Moderate energy demand to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels
- Increasing indigenous energy production in the EU
- Developing energy technologies

The European heat pump industry has been supportive of the report, in particular since it is convinced on the need for a strategy aiming at securing Europe’s supply security by decarbonising the energy mix and including a large share of renewables.

European Heat Pump Association secretary-general Thomas Nowak said: “ITRE’s report had gone a long way from a mere diversification of gas supply routes to a broad and forward-looking vision including the crucial need to strive towards an efficient and renewable-based heating and cooling sector.

“We hope that energy security in a comprehensive sense will be brought back soon to the Parliament’s agenda. We also hope that any similar ‘tragedy’ will be avoided in the upcoming discussions and votes on the EP Energy Union report.”

The report suggests the EU is not on track to achieve its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020, while a third of the existing reduction in energy demand is due to lower levels of economic activity. The report says more should be done to implement existing legislation in this field.

The report also suggests that Russia is no longer a reliable partner for energy supplies, and deplores the failure to build the Nabucco gas pipeline that would have diversified supplies.
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