



ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES: EUROPE SWITCHED ON

Joint fact-finding mission (MCI) on the security of French electricity supply and the means of ensuring this, chaired by M. Bruno Sido, senator for the Haute-Marne district

Report by Messrs. Michel Billout, senator for Seine-et-Marne, Marcel Deneux, senator for the Somme, and Jean-Marc Pastor, senator for the Tarn

Forty recommendations by the Joint Fact-finding Mission on Electricity

*“Given that electricity is not a commodity like any other, the MCI considers that the security of its supply necessitates **strong public control** of the electricity system and calls for **regulation**, including at the **Community level**, within the framework of a **European Energy Centre**”*

1. To produce the electricity which France and Europe need

1. Make it obligatory for each EU Member State to draw up a proposal indicating how it will guarantee its electricity needs over the next ten years (based on the multi-annual investment programme (PPI) for electricity production), with the European Commission being charged by the Council to pull it all together at Community level.
2. Set up **minimum production standards** so that each EU State is able to produce roughly the amount of electricity which it consumes.
3. Synchronise the pace of preparation of the PPI and the RTE supply and demand forecast.
4. To give RTE (*French National Grid*) further powers to enable it to **anticipate any danger of imbalance** between supply and demand at **regional level**.
5. **Keep open the French nuclear option** and provide the right conditions for the replacement of the present installations by the most advanced nuclear technologies.
6. Encourage the formation of **industrial partnerships between EDF and other electricity suppliers** to build new production capacity.
7. In order to **bolster French hydro-electric potential**, take into account the balance between the rights of different parties as defined by the law on water when drafting decrees, reduce the total usage charge paid to the public networks (TURP) by the STEP (energy transfert pumping station) works, and consider a “valley concession” procedure for works requiring co-ordinated management.

8. More generally, promote **greater diversification of the French energy mix** by developing renewable energy in order to restore the balance in the sources of electricity production in France.

9. Since the existence of regulated prices for the sale of electricity ensures the protection of consumers, make sure that the drafting of the “electricity” directive explicitly allows the **maintenance of a pricing system based on the principle of cost covering**.

10. Encourage the **development of long-term supply contracts** in order to respond to the specific needs of business consumers.

11. Provide **supervision** by **regulators** of electricity transactions on the **wholesale markets** at the European level. ■

2. To bring electricity to consumers in a reliable manner

12. Reassert **France’s opposition to the present form of asset separation project** between electricity producers and transmission system managers (TSM).

13. Propose a directive or other legally binding European document establishing **common security and information rules between TSM in Europe**.

14. To this end, **encourage the TSM to set up an official group** as an integral part of the European committee structure, able to set out the rules, check on their application and impose sanctions in the event of breach.

15. Create a **European Centre for the co-ordination of electricity** able to detect upstream the risk of imbalances and to co-ordinate the actions of the various national centres.

16. Promote throughout Europe the **French model for the regulation of the electricity market**, which guarantees right of access to the public networks as well as the independence of the network managers - with the CRE (Energy regulatory commission) granting approval for the RTE’s investment plan.

17. Encourage the **creation of an “EREGE +”**, out of the different national regulators, able to regulate international electricity trade.

18. **Complete the linking of the French transmission system** (particularly in Brittany and the Côte-d’Azur) and to research means of **accelerating the procedures preceding** the construction of new works.

19. Develop the international interconnections where they are needed to **improve the security of the system**. To this end, study the creation of a legal procedure based on a **declaration of European public interest** for major integrated Europe-wide infrastructure projects.

20. Increase investment in the distribution systems, in particular to accentuate the move towards the **burying of medium- and low-voltage lines**.

21. Increase the number of **French wind farms**, without however risking an imbalance in the system, *i.e.* with the maximum installed power not exceeding 10 GW.

22. **Tighten up the standards for the construction and connection of the decentralised means of electricity production**, so that these installations do not instantly disconnect in the event of disturbances to the system.

23. Review the **communication procedures** and the **rescue plans** between TSM and the distribution system managers, taking into consideration the increasing importance of decentralised production.

3. In order to control the consumption of electricity

24. Give preference to the installation of **heating systems other than electric convectors in new buildings**.

25. Draw up a **national plan for the training of specialists** in the energy performance of buildings.

26. Encourage the PREBAT (Research and experimentation program on the energy efficiency of buildings) to study the socio-economic factors for the **under-employment of technologies which improve** the energy performance of buildings.

27. **Modify the tax regime and certain tax credits directed at energy saving**.

28. **Adjust the transfer applying** to buildings with a “high-energy performance” (HEP) or “high environmental-quality” (HEQ) rating.

29. Offer an **interest-free loan** for expenditure on existing buildings aimed at **reducing energy consumption**.

30. Create a **fund for triggering investment in energy-efficient infrastructure** in public buildings.

31. Require the application of the HEQ procedures or HEP rating in the **construction or renovation of all State-owned buildings**.

32. Support within the European Union proposals for **reduced VAT on eco-labelled products**.

33. Put forward within the European Union a plan for **energy consumption labels** on brown products and a **limit of 1W on the stand-by power** of “white” and “brown” goods.

34. **Prohibit the sale of incandescent light bulbs throughout the country by 2010**.

35. Make the granting of **government subsidies to firms conditional on green credentials**.

36. Put up **posters** setting out the main recommendations for energy saving in **government and public buildings**, and also on staff noticeboards in **businesses**.

37. Include in the charters of **France Television** and **Radio France** the obligation to transmit **broadcasts devoted to energy saving**.

38. Demand the fitting of **“smart meters”** within a set period of time.

39. Revise upwards the **energy-saving certificate targets** in 2009.

40. **Extend the period of daylight saving time? ■**



Joint Information Mission on Electricity

<http://www.senat.fr/commission/missions/Electricite/index.html>

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