



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Directorate J - Preserving the Ecosystem : research actions for energy  
**Policy aspects**  
Chef d'unité

Brussels, 5 April 2002  
J1/MP/mb D(2002)

## Report for IEA CERT of April 2002

### Recent Technology Developments in the European Community

Since autumn 2000, four main developments of relevance to energy technology have taken place in the EC:

1. Energy RTD activities for the period 2002-2006 will be carried out within the priorities defined in the 6<sup>th</sup> RTD Framework Programmes and in the corresponding specific programmes (the final decisions are expected by Summer 2002).

Increased coordination and networking with Member States activities will be sought, according to the concept of « European Research Area ».

The main new features in the energy field are:

- the distinction of two sets of activities addressing short-medium term (in compliance with the analysis of the Green Paper on security of energy supply, and with the objective of reaching the Kyoto targets) and medium to long term (beyond present Kyoto targets)
- a stronger concentration on a limited list of areas, esp. in the mid to long term (renewable, CO<sub>2</sub> capture and sequestration, hydrogen and fuel cells)
- the continuous support to nuclear research (for both fission (esp. waste) and fusion (with a strong focus on ITER)).

Besides that, energy research could also benefit from a new “horizontal” priority supporting policy making or multidisciplinary research for emerging problems or opportunities.

2. The EC has also undertaken a review of its activities in the field of dissemination and promotion of energy technology through various instruments (Save, Altener, Synergy etc.) in order to increase their effectiveness in support of energy and sustainable development. A proposal for a multiannual programme dealing with these issues and covering the period 2002-2006 is expected soon.

3. Important policy papers have been adopted by the EC and have stimulated discussions with Member States, industry and stakeholders:
- a) the Green Paper « Towards a European strategy for the security of energy supply » (November 2000) has underlined the need for Europe to develop an active energy policy and to implement a strategy esp. for the short and mid term
    - insisting on the potential of actions aiming at controlling energy demand;
    - calling for behavioural changes and for more active use of fiscal instruments in this context;
    - favouring the energy sources / solutions which can best contribute to combat global warming.
  - b) the White Paper on Transport (September 2001) aims at a shift of the balance between modes of transport to an environmentally friendly mix. The White Paper is proposing a total of about 60 measures, some of which would lead to substantial reductions in energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These measures should allow to face the major transport problems (congestion,...) and to break the link between economic and transport growth without restricting mobility.
  - c) the Sixth Environment Action Programme (January 2001) which sets out the major priorities and objectives for environment policy over the next five to ten years. The first priority is the ratification and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. A list of other actions of relevance to energy technology is included in this action programme.
  - d) A “Kyoto related” package, of October 2001, containing a proposal for a ratification of the Kyoto Protocol, a Communication on the first phase of the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) and a proposal for a directive on emissions trading.
4. Several directives have been either adopted (such as the directive on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources aiming at doubling the share of renewable energy consumption in the EU in 2010) or proposed by the Commission (energy efficiency in buildings, alternative fuels and biofuels).