

European Parliament approves energy market text

EC President José Manuel Barroso and Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs have welcomed a European Parliament vote backing new rules to strengthen the EU's internal energy market. The new legislation is expected to give consumers more protection and the benefit of the lowest possible energy prices while offering companies the chance to compete on a level playing field. In addition the legislative package will promote sustainability by stimulating energy efficiency. "This is a major step towards a truly integrated European energy market, and the right European Union response to the structural challenges we face. It is good news for business and citizens alike who need competitive prices and security of energy supply. The adoption of the internal market proposals shows that Europe can deliver on its promises," says Barroso. The main objective of the legislative package is to put in place the regulatory framework needed to make market opening fully effective and to create a single EU gas and electricity market in the interest of achieving the lowest possible energy prices and better security. The package promotes sustainability by stimulating energy efficiency and guaranteeing that small companies, particularly those investing in renewable energy, have access to the energy market. A competitive market will contribute to greater security of supply by improving the conditions for investment in power plants and transmission networks, thus helping to avoid interruptions in power or gas supplies. Ensuring fair competition between EU companies and third country companies is another key objective of this new legislation. It is expected the Council will formally endorse text approved by the Parliament within the next few months.

Source: esaa news Issue 16, 27 April 2009