

Renewables Underpin EU Energy Policy

The European Parliament says there should be binding targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions and on increasing the use of renewable energy sources. These views are set out in a wide ranging report on the Commission's energy strategy proposals, adopted by a large majority last Thursday. To tackle climate change, Members of the European Parliament say EU leaders should agree within the next year on a binding CO2 target for 2020 and an indicative one for 2050. They say the existing Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) needs to be changed, to include a move towards auctioning or benchmarking based on output – and also to bring in further emitting sectors including all types of freight transport. The report supports an EU target for energy efficiency improvements of at least 20 per cent by 2020. The report asks the Council and Commission to make the EU the most energy efficient economy in the world by 2020 and to set energy efficiency measures as cross-cutting priority for all EU policy areas.

[Source esaa news]