

Motion

of the Members of Parliament Jürgen Trittin, Thilo Hoppe, Ute Koczy, Hans-Josef Fell, Reinhard Loske, Cornelia Behm, Uschi Eid, Winne Hermann, Peter Hettlich, Bärbel Höhn, Ulrike Höfken, Anton Hofreiter, Sylvia Kotting-Uhl, Undine Kurth (Quedlinburg), Kerstin Müller (Köln), Rainer Steenblock, Winfried Nachtwei, Harald Terpe and the Parliamentary Group of ALLIANCE 90/THE GREENS

The G8 Summit must send a message in support of sustainable energy supply and must strengthen health systems in the developing countries.

The Bundestag notes:

This year's G8 meeting in St Petersburg will centre on energy policy and energy security. As in the past, though, the summit will also examine global development issues. Combating infectious diseases and access to medicine, along with improving access to education are also on the agenda. Global economic issues will also be discussed at the summit.

The G8 summit must send a message in support of sustainable energy supply

Sustainable, secure and efficient energy supply is vital for every economy. Prosperity, health and mobility are dependent on a secure supply of energy. Dwindling reserves and decreasing availability of fossil fuels, coupled with increasing worldwide demand, are leading the international community of states to focus increasingly on the issue of supply security. Only through a fair distribution of resources and, in particular, through a worldwide shift to renewable energies can the increasing potential for conflict be stemmed. At the same time, increasing scientific evidence exists to suggest that the global consequences of the prevailing energy system are far more dramatic than was assumed only a few years ago. Climate change has accelerated, weather disasters are becoming more frequent, and annual temperatures are steadily rising. Thus, global efforts to make our energy supply sustainable as soon as possible, in order to slow down climate change must be considerably intensified. Temperatures must not be allowed to rise to more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

An increased use of coal leads to increases in CO₂ emissions, thus representing a growing threat to the world climate. This also applies to the use of liquefied coal as a fuel substitute. Research is being carried out on the development of CO₂-free coal power plants; yet, in view of the limited efficiency, high costs and the risks of final storage, which have yet to be addressed, it is scepticism, rather than optimism, which is called for. Furthermore, this

technology is still years from reaching commercial maturity, meaning that it cannot be seen today as offering a positive perspective for the challenges of climate protection.

Nuclear energy provides no solution to our energy problems, but rather creates new and incalculable risks. The risk of a maximum credible accident will always be present. The question of disposal of radioactive waste has remained unsolved for fifty years. In addition, uranium is itself a resource of which there are only very limited reserves.

The large quantity of weapons-grade plutonium in existence represents a threat to global disarmament and, against the background of terrorist attacks, constitutes an unacceptable risk. At the same time, the spread of civilian use of nuclear energy creates new opportunities for its military use, as can be seen from developments in India or Pakistan, or in the context of uranium enrichment in Iran.

Determined expansion of renewable energies and massive energy conservation measures are the key to secure, economic and sustainable supply across the world. Today, already, renewables are showing how energy supply can be safeguarded in transport, electricity production and heating.

Yet access to energy is equally decisive to improve the living conditions in developing countries. Though 70 per cent of energy is currently consumed in the industrial nations, we can expect more than two thirds of future growth to take place in developing and newly industrialised countries. A large part of this growth will arise from people's basic needs being met. More than half of people in developing countries have no access to modern energy and need wood, oil or animal dung to survive. There are 1.6 billion people without access to electricity. The challenge faced today is to couple increasing consumption with greater efficiency, where possible without damage to the climate, with a reduction of air, soil and water pollution and improved access for the poorest. Combating poverty and reducing hunger is always linked with access to sustainable energy sources. None of the eight development goals can be achieved without access to energy.

The G8 Summit must reduce dependency on fossil energy sources

Even as early as the first G7 meeting in Rambouillet in 1975, discussions took place in the context of the oil crisis about the availability of energy sources. The Communiqué Declaration states that "Our common interests require that we continue to cooperate in order to reduce our dependence on imported energy through conservation and the development of alternative sources." This is an approach which is still relevant today.

Despite the strong disagreements which existed, the finance ministers did successfully reach agreement on some general points in energy policy in advance of the G8 summit to be held near St Petersburg. These include endeavours to reduce the use of oil and gas through increased efficiency, create greater transparency on the oil markets and expand the oil and gas

sector through increased investments. Despite oil prices being at around 70 dollars a barrel, growth expectations for the global economy are positive.

In his State of the Union address this year, President George Bush talked about his country's addiction to oil and said that this addiction must be broken. What applies to the US is also a problem in other G8 states. We must move away from oil. The future development perspectives of newly industrialised and development countries will also depend on the establishment of a sustainable energy system.

The time of cheap raw materials for energy is over. The G8 states are faced with a historic task – of achieving tangible steps to overcome their economic reliance on fossil fuels. Instead of moving in this direction, the statements made by the G8 heads of state and government suggest that long-term security of supply exists. Yet, in view of the predicted growth in demand, security of supply will only exist in the medium term at best. And this would be based on an energy system which continues to underestimate the costs of climate problems and other directly induced environmental problems.

In addition, catastrophic consequences can already be seen in terms of development policy, as a result of the price of oil and the lack of access to appropriate energy systems. The efficiency of debt relief, development financing programmes and trade gains for developing countries is being cancelled out in non-oil-exporting countries by increased oil bills. This may result in domestic instability and a lack of perspectives. In parallel with this, political interventions in connection with priority supply of oil and gas are taking on increasing importance. This means an increasing potential for the major oil and gas producing countries to use blackmail and resort to political horse trading. The political influence wielded by Venezuela, Iran, Saudi Arabia or Russia, for example, would be completely inconceivable without the oil and gas price factor. Highly speculative oil markets are now coupled with politically-motivated energy prices. The fact that oil reserves are concentrated in a very small number of countries, or that 85 per cent of the world's population live in countries which have to import oil (net importers), for example, shows just how fragile the current system is. And poor countries suffer more from price rises, as their industries are less efficient in their energy consumption, as are their households and vehicles. The World Bank recently calculated that developing countries are affected three times as much as industrial nations by price rises. Thus, in Nicaragua, for example, the increased oil bill is far greater than the development commitments the country has received.

Furthermore, revenue in oil exporting states has often not improved people's living conditions. In the case of Angola and Nigeria, for example, oil production went hand in hand with a legendary degree of corruption. There were few incentives to move beyond a classic "rentier economy", build up a sustainable revenue system and diversify the economy. So something which appears at first to be a blessing can soon turn out to be the "curse of resources". In many countries, massive destruction of the environment and nature, along with human rights violations and the destruction of indigenous people's living space, can be seen precisely in the oil sector.

Long-term global energy security can only be achieved through massively expanding renewable energies, increasing energy efficiency and boosting energy conservation. This applies, amongst others, to many developing countries, whose potential for increased efficiency and energy conservation is so far untapped and whose only native sources are wind, water, sun, geothermal energy and biomass, along with marine energies in some cases. Due to their decentralised nature, the renewable energies offer a significant additional advantage to these countries – because, in rural areas in particular, the energy grids in most developing countries are either non-existent or inadequate. Expanding renewables would thus reduce the investment needed in infrastructure. If renewable energies are developed further on the technical side, they could exploit even more potential and cut costs and boost efficiency even further. If this is to be achieved, reliable and successful research, market-introduction and market-penetration activities will also be needed in the G8 states.

The G8 must send a clear message of cooperation in these fields and highlight the importance of this cooperation at the meeting with the newly industrialised countries near St Petersburg. Conservation, efficiency and overcoming the reliance on fossil fuels, along with a focus on locally produced alternative energies are decisive in reducing poverty and dependence on imported energy resources. At the **Renewables 2004** conference, the international dialogue on expanding renewable energies was intensified. It is now up to the G8 in particular to implement the action programme. This programme could provide half a billion people with access to electricity by the year 2015 and would avoid 1.6 bn tonnes of greenhouse gases. This approach must be built on. Improved coordination of the transfer of technology and skills, along with mutual learning on political instruments is vital. In order to achieve this, we require new international instruments. Amongst other things, the establishment of a dedicated intergovernmental organisation is needed. The creation of an International Agency for Renewable Energy would be a step in the right direction, in order to accelerate worldwide technology transfer in the renewables sector and promote increased energy efficiency. Beyond this, REN21 should be promoted and a change in direction of the International Energy Agency encouraged, in order to move it towards renewable energies, energy conservation and energy efficiency.

The G8 summit must contribute to reinforcement of health systems in developing countries

Every year, millions of people in developing countries die as a result of infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/Aids. The international community has committed itself, in the framework of the UN Millennium Development Goals, to significantly reducing the number of people suffering from these illnesses by 2015. The G8 states are now tasked with really contributing to an all-round approach to improving health systems in developing countries. One example is staffing difficulties which exist in developing countries as result of people leaving such countries to work in industrial nations. In general, far more consideration must be given than in the past to innovative financing instruments for stabilising health

systems. France and other countries are setting the right example by levying a tax on airline tickets and channelling the revenues into a global health fund. Germany must join in this initiative.

In addition, the G8 states must play an active role in the international working group agreed on by the UN's World Health Assembly at the end of May. This working group is to establish a plan of action to achieve universal access to medicines and, amongst other things, ensure that drugs to combat HIV/Aids, malaria and tuberculosis, as well as neglected diseases such as leishmaniasis, sleeping sickness and Chagas disease, are also developed for use in developing countries.

International patent rights must not result in developing countries' access to medicines being hindered or in medicines only being developed to satisfy demand in industrial nations. The TRIPS Agreement must not impede worldwide commitment to public health. It is now important for the Doha Ministerial Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement to be interpreted and implemented in a responsible manner. This must include providing legal certainty for the production of generic drugs, for example.

It is also not acceptable for the USA to exert pressure in bilateral free trade negotiations on countries like Thailand to persuade them to renounce the right to use cheaper generic drugs for the treatment of Aids.

The pharmaceuticals industry has so far failed to develop effective and affordable vaccines - in part because of low profit expectations due to developing countries' lack of financial strength. The G8 states have reacted to this with a discussion on a pilot project which, amongst other things, would provide a state guarantee of purchasing vaccines developed within the private sector. This approach, intended to achieve progress in research on illnesses like malaria and tuberculosis, is to be welcomed. Such a programme could save millions of lives. Germany must make a financial contribution to this initiative.

It is the task of Parliament, government and NGOs to make sure that the pilot project is run transparently, in order to ensure cost-effective implementation and prevent companies being subsidised for research they would have carried out anyway.

Beyond this, the United Nations should make a point of continually reminding pharmaceuticals companies of their responsibility to society. The G7 meeting of finance ministers in St Petersburg in June 2006 was unable to reach agreement on the financing and scope of the programme. The German Federal Government is refusing to participate, arguing that it lacks the funding to do so. This position sends the wrong message and isolates Germany within the G8. Above all, though, it sends a message to many developing countries that Germany, despite its well-meaning declarations, is unable to contribute financially to the fight against global diseases. This political failure is doubly grave since the Federal Government lacks further strategies to persuade the pharmaceuticals industry to make progress in research on illnesses of particular significance for developing countries.

The German Bundestag calls on the Federal Government to:

- Seek to ensure that the G8 states work towards a massive, ecologically sustainable expansion of renewable energies both in their own countries and in newly industrialised and developing countries
- Seek to ensure that the G8 states, within the World Bank and the regional development banks, actively support the expansion of energy efficiency programmes, a consistent policy of energy conservation and the expansion of the renewables sector.
- Continue, within the G8, to determinedly oppose subsidisation by the World Bank or other international financial institutions of the building of nuclear power plants.
- Seek to ensure that the G8 states enter into a systematic institutionalised dialogue with newly industrialised states on the subject of sustainable energy systems.
- Seek to ensure that the G8 states work determinedly to achieve implementation of the action programme agreed on at the conferences for renewable energies in Bonn and Peking and that the dialogue initiated becomes more in depth.
- Seek to ensure that the G8 states actively support the establishment of an International Agency for Renewable Energy, support the REN21 network and endeavour to bring about reorganisation of the International Energy Agency.
- Seek to ensure commitment by the G8 states to supporting access to sustainable energy systems for the poorest countries by increasing the funds allocated to the relevant programmes.
- Seek to ensure within the G8 framework that health systems in the developing countries are comprehensively strengthened, with the aim of improved access to medical services.
- Make a financial contribution to the G8's vaccination programme for the world's poorest countries and provide active support to a pilot project.
- Work within the working group which the UN's World Health Assembly has decided to create to promote universal access to medicines and to launch a programme of action by 2008.
- To ensure that access to vital medicines and the manufacture of generic drugs are not impeded by the rules of the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.
- Seek to ensure that the G8 states – particularly the USA – do not exert pressure on developing countries in negotiations on bilateral free trade agreements to persuade them to renounce the right to use cheaper generic drugs for the treatment of Aids and other diseases.

- Use innovative forms of development financing and, like France and other states, introduce a tax on airline tickets, in order to provide more resources for development cooperation, in particular for health services.
- Reach agreement with the pharmaceuticals industry on new approaches to research on neglected diseases of particular significance to developing countries.
- Improve public research with a particular focus on the health risks in developing countries.

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