



Pat-MedMUNC III

European Union

European Energy Policy

Like the rest of the world, the European Union is determined to become less reliant on non-renewable forms of energy and move towards a greener economy. Europe is already the world leader in developing and using sustainable energy, and major projects are planned to dramatically increase this use. However, energy is about much, much more than just being green.

First, oil prices continue to follow a long-term upward trend, and the time when there will simply not be enough 'black gold' to go around is fast approaching. Many now believe that the next global economic crisis will result from a global oil crunch, with potentially devastating consequences. Second, the European Union remains far too dependent for its energy on Russia and the Middle East to have any confidence in its own energy security. Serious work needs to be done to diversify Europe's fuel sources and make the continent more sustainable.

Renewable energy must play a role in this, but it cannot accomplish the job alone. Nuclear power must be considered more seriously across the Union. In early 2010, plans to build the Nabucco Pipeline (designed to lessen natural gas dependence on Russia) have rapidly advanced, while energy companies are preparing major exploratory pushes into Central and Eastern Europe in search of Shale Gas. A major solar power development in North Africa is another exciting possibility. In the context of an increasingly energy-hungry Asia and the deteriorating situations in both former Soviet areas and the Persian Gulf, energy security and dependence is of paramount importance for Europe.

The problem facing this committee is to devise a program for moving Europe towards sustainable, independent and affordable energy. European energy companies are some of the biggest and most sophisticated in the world: we are faced with a challenge that must and can be overcome. European nations and a common energy policy should be the main issue at hand.

Points to Consider

- Has your nation been pro-active in the utilization of renewable forms of energy?
- How "green" is your economy?
- What policy is fair for all European nations to agree to pertaining to the environment?