

28 November 2006

Presidency's Summary of the Discussion on the EU Energy Ministers' Dinner held on 22 November 2006

Energy Policy for Europe

We had an open and constructive discussion on the development of the EU's energy policy and the choice of energy sources (energy mix). In many respects, our opinions converged.

The following views formed part of our consensus:

- A debate on the EU's and its Member States' energy mix is welcome and necessary.
- The energy mix is one of the competencies belonging to Member States but, in practice, choices made by single member states affect other EU countries.
- We must address producer countries with one voice and be clear about our message when doing so.
- We must diversify our energy supplies. This covers both our own energy production and oil, gas and other energy imports from third countries. We need several suppliers, supply sources and transit routes (e.g. gas pipelines).
- We must increase Europe's self-sufficiency and reduce its dependency on external energy sources. Renewables and bioenergy – including liquid biofuels – and energy efficiency will play a central role in this.
- Coal is an important domestic energy source in many Member States. Developing clean coal technologies is the prerequisite for sustainable use of coal.
- The need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions was underlined. This will rest on both the EU's own actions and collaboration with other countries.
- Member States have a spectrum of views on nuclear power and its role in their own energy mix.

A more diversified energy mix will help to achieve the objectives of the EU's energy policy. Similarly, the development and deployment of new technologies will help Europe create a more sustainable energy mix. This process could be enhanced by e.g. increasing resources for R&D&D and through international research collaboration.