

FINAL**MOTION****On energy efficiency and environment**

**For the EDS Council meeting April 9, 2011 in Budapest(Hungary)
Presented by PWG Policies for Europe**

Protecting and preserving our environment should be the spotlight of future EU policies, and to some extent, it is. Fostering a safe and healthy environment for its citizens is common sense, but there are more benefits if such goals are pursued.

By lowering emissions of CO₂, reducing air pollution, and preserving drinkable water, we can increase the general health of citizens, increase economic stability and create new jobs. All of that could be achieved by creating an efficient, and above all, consistent sustainable development policy. The EU has taken great steps in that direction, but recent world developments have shown that set goals should be reconsidered.

Recent outbreaks in the Middle East, most notably Libya, have shown all the downsides of EU fossil fuel dependency. This event proved once again how important the energy issue is for Europe.

Reducing energy consumption and encouraging the use of renewable energy sources will stabilize the energy market, protect it from unreliable supply and therefore have a positive effect on the economy. Also, taking into account that the EU is getting more than 50% of its energy from outside countries makes this matter more urgent. The new Chinese five-year plan that has been announced recently, focuses heavily on reducing CO₂ emissions and investing in renewable energy. Soon, the US and Canada will follow, as they have already announced. Although the new EU energy roadmap has set a 25% greenhouse gas emission cut by the year 2020 as a goal, we think that recent developments stated above should encourage us to raise the reduction target to 30% in order to retain the economic advantages.

We see green energy and sustainable development as the new industrial revolution, and therefore would like to see the EU economy ahead of the competition.

Accordingly, we, the European Democrat Students, the student organization of the European People's Party would like to:

- Emphasize that it is urgently necessary for the European Union to make more efforts in reaching goals set by the European Commission's *Energy Efficiency Plan 2011*
- Recommend raising the goal for greenhouse gas emission cut to 30% by the year 2020
- Insist on investing more financial resources in research & development of renewable energy sources

- Encourage institutions and research centers to shorten the time in which new technologies become available to end users, so they can be implemented at a quicker pace
- Urge theEU to refurbish its public buildings to increase energy efficiency
- Recommend the development of standardized electric car chargers
- Propose the development of new curricula for secondary and higher education in order to satisfy the job market for new green jobs.