

# EU/NR 79: INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA) GIVES POSITIVE REVIEW OR EUROPEAN UNION ENERGY POLICY

Last Updated Thursday, 04 September 2008

No. 79/08

September 4, 2008

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In its first in-depth analysis of European Energy Policy, the IEA has strongly endorsed the broad outlines of the European Commission's energy proposals. This IEA report comes at a critical juncture, with the energy proposals currently under discussion between the European Commission, the European Parliament and EU Member States in the European Council.

European Commission President José Manuel Barroso (on left above) said that he was "delighted that the IEA has endorsed so positively the Commission's climate change and energy proposals set out in 2007."

"The IEA review of EU energy policy is a highly visible and politically important exercise that is very useful for the Commission," added EU Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs (on right above). "It shows clearly that the EU is now recognised as a single entity in energy matters."

The review specifically praised the coherence of the EU's energy and climate change strategy, as well as the Commission's market liberalization package for electricity and gas. The IEA also encouraged the Commission to make further progress unbundling networks from supply and generation. The review also made important recommendations on the need to increase research funding and establish a more coherent external energy policy with a stronger role for the EU institutions.

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