

**PROTOCOL**  
**ANNEXED TO THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION**  
**AND THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE**  
**EUROPEAN UNION**  
**ON THE ENERGY TRANSITION AND TO PROMOTE**  
**ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FORMS OF ENER-**  
**GY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**PREAMBLE**

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,

DETERMINED to promote sustainable development of the Union for the purpose of its citizens' welfare,

BEARING IN MIND the significance of environmental protection as a cross-sectional task of the Union, which is to be taken into account in the establishment and implementation of all Union policies and measures,

CONFIRMING the pursuit of the objective of a high level of protection of the Union's environmental policy, which is based on the precautionary principle and on the principles that preventive action should be taken, environmental damage should, as a priority, be rectified at source and that the polluter should pay,

IN VIEW of safeguarding the functioning of the energy market, the guaranteeing of the security of energy supply in the Union, the promotion of energy efficiency and energy savings, the development of new and renewable energy sources and their integration into the market, as well as the promotion of the interconnection of energy networks as objectives of the Union's energy policy,

WITH THE INTENTION to ensure safe, environmentally friendly and sustainable energy production in Europe, which guarantees security of energy supply and by creating jobs in the manufacture of products, technologies and services, which help to avoid environmental damages and preserve natural resources, can make a significant contribution to the Union's economic growth,

DETERMINED, in terms of the Union's strategic orientation towards smart, sustainable and integrative growth while pursuing the targets – which have to be updated on a regularly basis – of increasing the proportion of renewable energies in energy consumption and achieving savings in primary energy consumption,

IN AWARENESS of the fact that there is a need for the internal energy market to become more flexible, both on the supply and demand side, in order to prepare the market comprehensively for the integration of renewable energy sources,

IN VIEW of the necessity to take into account the positive effects on regional and local development possibilities, export opportunities, social cohesion and employment opportunities, particularly for SMEs and independent energy producers, when promoting the development of the market for renewable energy sources,

AGAINST THE BACKGROUND that public action to support innovation in the energy sector, particularly in the field of renewable energy sources, as well as the concurrent discontinuation of promotion measures that are harmful to the environment are both necessary and justified,

WHEREAS in the context of responsible energy supply, private households require support in multiple ways to achieve energy efficiency in order to relieve the environment and the energy supply, especially for consumers who are in particular need of protection,

WITH THE KNOWLEDGE that the utilisation of energy from renewable sources and the employment of energy efficiency technologies in the building, heating and transport sectors are some of the most effective tools, by which the Union can reduce its dependence on crude oil imports, thereby strengthening the security of energy supply,

WITH THE CONVICTION that energy savings and a greater awareness when handling the use of energy, for example by promoting alternative mobility concepts, can make a major contribution towards reaching the objectives specified in the Protocol,

IN AWARENESS of the fact that by the control of European energy consumption as well as the increased use of energy from renewable energy sources the Union's environmental policy contributes towards the pursuit of the objectives of a careful and rational use of natural resources and towards the promotion of measures at an international level to combat climatic change,

DETERMINED to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the Union by 80% to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050 in order to limit global warming to below 2 °C,

DETERMINED to promote a fast and consistent decarbonisation of energy production using market-based instruments, a clear enhancement of energy efficiency, as well as a transition to sustainable production technologies, mobility systems and consumption patterns, which use the natural resources sparingly, in order to reach this target,

IN AWARENESS that the decarbonisation of energy production can only succeed – even with clearly reduced energy consumption levels – if the highest possible share of generation is covered by reliable renewable energy resources and all costs of a carbon-based energy production are integrated,

DETERMINED to achieve the Union's long-term political targets relating to environmental protection, climate and security of energy supply, even with regard to Europe's external energy policy relationships,

HAVE AGREED upon the following provisions that are appended to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union:

## TITLE I COMMON PROVISIONS

### Article 1

#### **Objectives and Tasks**

(1) When carrying out actions under this Protocol, the Union shall pursue the following objectives:

- a) To create an “energy transition” by the increased use of energy from renewable energy sources together with the control of energy consumption by energy savings and enhanced energy efficiency;
- b) To ensure secure, environmentally friendly, sustainable and affordable energy supply in Europe by means of renewable energies;
- c) To reduce the Union’s dependence on energy sources from instable or exposed regions;
- d) To create a favourable environment for technical improvements, the employment of energy-efficiency technologies and the use of energy from renewable sources in the transportation sector, in which the security of energy supply problem is most acute.

(2) In order to achieve these objectives, the Union has particularly the following tasks in accordance with this Protocol:

- a) Adopt appropriate measures to promote energy savings and energy efficiency;
- b) Establish binding targets to achieve a gradual increase in the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union’s energy consumption;
- c) Promote research and innovation in the field of energy production from renewable sources, energy efficiency and energy savings, which help significantly to achieve environmentally compatible and resource-efficient growth and new employment opportunities.
- d) Ensure the dissemination of knowledge on new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving, as well as facilitate investments in this area in order to ensure the establishment of facilities that are necessary to develop new and renewable energy sources in the Union, specifically by encouraging entrepreneurial initiative;
- e) Promote the development of the market for renewable energy sources while taking into account the beneficial effects on regional and local development possibilities, export opportunities, social cohesion, particularly for SMEs and independent energy producers;
- f) Support and promote collaboration among the Member States, in particular through the exchange of best practices;

- g) Cooperate with third countries and international organisations to promote energy efficiency and energy savings, as well as to develop and disseminate new and renewable energy sources.

## Article 2

### **Common Provisions**

- (1) Without prejudice to Article 11 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the requirements to bring about an energy transition and to promote environmentally friendly forms of energy must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union policies and activities.
- (2) The Commission, in its proposals envisaged in paragraph 1, shall aim at a high level of protection, taking into account in particular any new developments based on scientific facts. Each within their respective powers, the European Parliament and the Council shall also pursue this goal.
- (3) Without prejudice to Article 192(2)(c) and Article 194(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, such measures shall not affect a Member State's right to determine the conditions for exploiting its energy resources, its choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply.

TITLE II

**ENCOURAGEMENT OF PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY SAVING**

CHAPTER 1

**PROMOTION OF RESEARCH**

Article 3

**Promotion of Research, Education and Training**

- (1) The Commission shall be responsible for promoting and facilitating research in the field of new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving in the Member States and for complementing such research by carrying out the “Union’s research and training programme for renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving” as defined in Article 6.
- (2) With regard to its tasks under this chapter, the Commission shall receive assistance from the European Environment Agency.

Article 4

**Research Coordination**

- (1) To promote and complement the coordination and concentration of the research undertaken in Member States in the field of new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving, the Commission shall call upon Member States, persons or undertakings to communicate to the Commission their programmes relating to the research which it specifies in the request. It shall do this either by a specific request addressed to given recipients and conveyed to the government concerned, or by a general published request.
- (2) After giving those concerned full opportunity to comment, the Commission may deliver a reasoned opinion on each of the programmes communicated to it. The Commission shall deliver such an opinion if the State, person or undertaking, which has communicated the research programme, so requests.

By such opinions the Commission shall discourage unnecessary duplication and shall direct research towards sectors which are insufficiently explored. The Commission may not publish these programmes without the consent of the State, person or undertaking which has communicated them.

(3) The Commission shall publish at regular intervals a list of those research sectors in the field of new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving which it considers to be insufficiently explored.

(4) The Commission may invite representatives of public and private research centres, as well as any experts engaged in research in the same or related fields, to conferences for the purpose of mutual consultation and exchange of information.

#### Article 5

##### **Assistance with Research**

(1) To encourage the implementation of research programmes communicated to it, the Commission may

- a) provide financial assistance within the framework of research contracts,
- b) place plants, equipment or expert assistance at the disposal of Member States, persons or undertakings, either free of charge or against payment,
- c) promote joint financing by the Member States, persons or undertakings.

#### Article 6

##### **Research and Training Programme of the Union**

(1) The “Union’s research and training programme for renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving” shall be established by the European Parliament and the Council acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure on a proposal from the Commission, after consulting the Committee pursuant to Article 21.

(2) The funds required for implementing the “Union’s research and training programme for renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving” shall be included each year in the Union’s research and investment budget.

(3) This framework programme shall be implemented through specific programmes that will be developed within each activity. Each specific programme shall define the detailed rules for implementing it, fix its duration and define the funds deemed necessary. The sum of the amounts deemed necessary for the specific programmes must not exceed the overall maximum amount defined for the framework programme and each activity.

(4) The Council, acting in accordance with a special legislative procedure and after consulting the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, shall adopt the specific programmes.

(5) The European Environment Agency shall be responsible for providing logistical and administrative assistance for the specific programmes.

(6) In implementing the multiannual framework programme, supplementary programmes may be decided upon, involving the participation of certain Member States only, which shall also finance them subject to possible Union participation.

The Council, acting in accordance with a special legislative procedure after consulting the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, shall define the rules applicable to the supplementary programmes, particularly as regards the dissemination of knowledge and access by other Member States.

#### Article 7

##### **Entrusting Others with the Implementation of the Research and Training Programme**

After consulting the Committee, acting in accordance with Article 21, the Commission may, by contract, entrust Member States, persons or undertakings as well as third countries, inter-governmental organisations or nationals of third countries with the implementation of certain parts of the “Union’s research and training programme for renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving”.

#### Article 8

##### **Joint Undertakings to Promote Research**

(1) Undertakings which are of fundamental importance to the development of research in the sector of new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving in the Union may be established as Joint Undertakings within the meaning of this provision.

(2) Every project for establishing a Joint Undertaking, whether originating from the Commission, a Member State or any other quarter, shall be the subject of an inquiry by the Committee acting in accordance with Article 21.

For this purpose, the Commission shall obtain the views of the Member States and of any public or private body which in the Commission’s opinion can usefully advise it.

(3) The Commission shall forward to the European Parliament and the Council any project for establishing a Joint Undertaking, together with its reasoned opinion.

(4) Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee, the European Parliament and the Council shall define the provisions required for the establishment of the Joint Undertaking.

(5) In particular, the following points have to be defined:

- a) location,
- b) statutes,
- c) the scale of and timetable for financing,
- d) possible participation by the Union in the financing of the Joint Undertaking,

e) possible participation by a third State, an inter-governmental organisation or a natural or legal entity in the financing or management of the Joint Undertaking,

f) the granting of certain advantages.

(6) Each Joint Undertaking shall have legal personality. In each of the Member States, it shall enjoy the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under their respective national laws; it may, in particular, acquire or dispose of movable and immovable property and may be a party to legal proceedings.

## Article 9

### **Publication of Programmes and Reports**

(1) The Commission shall publish the research and training programmes and specific programmes referred to in Article 6 on the implementation, and also regular progress reports.

The Commission shall submit a report on the activities of the Joint Undertakings established in accordance with Article 8 to the European Parliament and the Council at the beginning of each year.

## CHAPTER 2

### **DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION**

## Article 10

### **Procedure on the Exchange of Research Work**

(1) After consulting the Committee in accordance with Article 21, the Commission shall define a procedure by which Member States, persons and undertakings may use it as an intermediary for exchanging provisional or final results of their research in the field of new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving, insofar as these results have not been acquired by the Union under research contracts awarded by the Commission.

(2) This procedure must be such as to ensure the confidential nature of the exchange.

## Article 11

### **Publication of Knowledge**

(1) The Commission shall publish the knowledge acquired by the Union, which it either derived from its own research programme or which was communicated to the Commission with authority to make free use of it. In this respect, the Commission shall receive assistance from the European Environment Agency.

The Commission may make the disclosure of such information conditional on its being treated as confidential and not passed on to third parties.



(2) The Commission shall endeavour, by amicable agreement, to secure both the communication of information which is of use to the Union in the attainment of its objectives in the field of new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving and the granting of licences under patents, provisionally protected patent rights, utility models or patent applications covering such information.

(3) Member States, persons or undertakings shall have the right, on application to obtain non-exclusive licences under patents, provisionally protected patent rights, utility models or patent applications in the field of new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving, owned by the Union, where they are able to make effective use of the inventions covered by such rights or applications.

Under the same conditions, the Commission shall grant sub-licences under patents, provisionally protected patent rights, utility models or patent applications, where the Union holds contractual licences conferring power to do so.

(4) The Commission shall grant such licences or sub-licences on terms to be agreed with the licensees and shall furnish all the information required for their use. These terms shall relate in particular to suitable remuneration and, where appropriate, to the right of the licensee to grant sub-licences to third parties and to the obligation, where appropriate, to treat the communicated information as a trade secret.

## CHAPTER 3

### PROMOTION OF INVESTMENT

#### Article 12

##### **Investment Programmes**

(1) In order to stimulate action by persons and undertakings and to facilitate coordinated development of their investment in the field of new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving, the Commission shall periodically publish the illustrative programmes indicating in particular renewable energy production, energy efficiency and energy saving targets and all the types of investment required for their attainment.

The Commission shall take into account the particular needs and the special eligibility for the promotion of micro enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

(2) The Commission shall obtain the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee and the committee established in accordance with Article 21 of this Protocol on such programmes before their publication.

#### Article 13

##### **Joint Undertakings to Promote Investment**

(1) Undertakings which are of fundamental importance to the field of new and renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy saving in the Union may be established as Joint Undertakings within the meaning of this provision.

(2) Every project for establishing a Joint Undertaking, whether originating from the Commission, a Member State or any other quarter, shall be reviewed by the Commission after consultation of the Committee acting in accordance with Article 21.

For this purpose, the Commission shall obtain the views of the Member States and of any public or private body which in the Commission's opinion can usefully advise it.

(3) The Commission shall forward to the European Parliament and the Council any project for establishing a Joint Undertaking, together with its reasoned opinion.

(4) Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee, the European Parliament and the Council shall define the provisions required for the establishment of the Joint Undertaking.

(5) In particular, the following points have to be defined:

- a) location,
- b) statutes,
- c) the scale of and timetable for financing,
- d) possible participation by the Union in the financing of the Joint Undertaking,
- e) possible participation by a third State, an inter-governmental organisation or a natural or legal entity in the financing or management of the Joint Undertaking,
- f) the granting of certain advantages.

(6) Each Joint Undertaking shall have legal personality. In each of the Member States, it shall enjoy the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under their respective national laws; it may, in particular, acquire or dispose of movable and immovable property and may be a party to legal proceedings.

**TITLE III**  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES**

**CHAPTER 1**  
**OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES OF THE UNION**

Article 14

**Targets and Action Plans**

For the purpose of ensuring a safe, sustainable and affordable energy supply in Europe by means of renewable energies, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall adopt appropriate measures, such as:

- a) definition of binding targets to progressively increase the share of energy from renewable sources in the Union's gross final consumption of energy as a whole;
- b) definition of binding national targets to progressively increase the share of energy from renewable sources in view of attaining the Union's overall objective;
- c) obligation of the Member States to adopt national action plans for renewable energy, which contain appropriate suitable measures to be taken to achieve the national targets;
- d) obligation of the Member States to submit periodically a progress report on the promotion and use of energy from renewable sources;
- e) framework conditions to promote common projects between two or more Member States or between Member States and third countries to produce electricity, heating or cooling energy from renewable energy sources.

**CHAPTER 2**  
**ENERGY MARKET**

Article 15

**Energy Market**

(1) With regard to the promotion of the development of the market for renewable energy sources, the Union shall take into account the positive effects on regional and local development possibilities, export opportunities, social cohesion and employment opportunities, as well as the

avoided costs for damage to the environment, particularly for SMEs and independent energy producers.

(2) For the purpose of paragraph 1, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedures in the context of securing the functioning of the energy market in accordance with Article 192(1)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, shall adopt appropriate measures to make the internal energy market more flexible, both on the supply and demand side, in order to prepare the market comprehensively for the integration of renewable energy sources.

(3) The Social Protection Committee that was established in accordance with Article 160 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union shall prepare regular reports on the situation of particularly vulnerable consumers in the energy market and promote the exchange of information, experience and good practices on solidarity, discount and compensation mechanisms between the Member States and the Commission.

## TITLE IV ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ENERGY SAVING

### CHAPTER 1 TARGETS AND ACTION PLANS

#### Article 16

#### **Objectives and Action Plans**

For the purpose of ensuring a safe, sustainable and affordable energy supply in Europe, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with ordinary legislative procedures, shall adopt appropriate measures, such as:

- a) definition of binding energy efficiency and energy saving targets for the Union as a whole;
- b) obligation of the Member States to define binding national energy efficiency and energy saving targets, which relate either to primary energy consumption or final energy consumption or primary energy savings or final energy savings or to energy intensity, in view of achieving the Union's overall objective;
- c) obligation of the Member States to adopt national energy efficiency and energy saving action plans, which contain appropriate measures to be taken to achieve the national targets;
- d) obligation of the Member States to submit periodically a report on the progress achieved in the implementation of the national energy efficiency and energy saving targets.

CHAPTER 2  
**MEASURES OF THE UNION**

Article 17

**Measures of the Union**

- (1) Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedures and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee, the European Parliament and the Council shall adopt measures appropriate to promote energy efficiency and energy saving.
- (2) The Commission, in its proposals envisaged in paragraph 1, shall aim at a high level of energy efficiency and energy saving, taking into account in particular any new developments based on scientific facts, taking account of their advantages for security of supply, environmental protection, social cohesion and regional development. Each within their respective powers, the European Parliament and the Council shall also pursue this goal.
- (3) Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedures and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee, the European Parliament and the Council shall adopt measures to support and complement the policy of the Member States to promote consumer information concerning the efficient use of energy, energy saving and cost-effective ways to change energy usage behaviour.

TITLE V  
**FINANCING AND COMPETITION**

Article 18

**Financing Instruments**

- (1) To attain the objectives and tasks in accordance with this Protocol, the Union and the Member States shall take appropriate measures for increased investment in the use of energy from renewable sources, energy efficiency and energy saving to create the necessary incentives, without prejudice to Article 19.
- (2) Taking into account Article 2, the Union shall provide itself with the means necessary to implement the targets and tasks in accordance with this Protocol.

In particular, based on the Union's existing financing instruments, the funding for investments leading to the increased use of energy from renewable energy sources, energy saving or enhanced energy efficiency shall be provided.

## Article 19

### **State Aid**

(1) The provisions on State aid specified in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union shall apply unless any provisions to the contrary are provided for in this Protocol.

(2) State aid for energy saving and energy efficiency measures as well as for renewable energy carriers are exempted from the notification requirement pursuant to Article 108(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, provided that it meets the general and particular exemption requirements to be defined in a regulation adopted by the Commission pursuant to Article 108(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The exemption requirements shall contribute towards attaining the objectives defined in this Protocol.

(3) Pursuant to Article 107(3)(c), the Commission can consider any other aids for energy saving and energy efficiency measures as well as for renewable energy carriers, which are not exempted from the notification requirements pursuant to Article 108(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union as compatible with the internal market.

The Commission shall exercise its discretionary power in terms of the targets incorporated in this Protocol and develop such criteria of compatibility that strengthen the use of energy from renewable energy sources as well as control energy consumption by means of energy savings and improved energy efficiency.

In particular, the Commission must ensure that the Member States may grant State aid in any form and by any means, provided that it is guaranteed that such aid will contribute to achieve the objectives set down in this Protocol in a reasonable manner and taking into account a Member State's right, pursuant to Article 194(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, to determine the conditions for exploiting its energy resources, its choice between different energy sources and the general structure of its energy supply system.

## Article 20

### **Public Procurement**

(1) The Member States shall ensure that public institutions at a national, regional and local level within the scope of Union law shall only procure products, services and works with high energy efficiency if this is compatible with the aspects cost effectiveness, economic viability, sustainability in the broader sense and technical suitability as well as sufficient competition.

With regard to public procurement within the scope of Union right, the promotion of the use of renewable energies, energy efficiency and energy savings must be particularly ensured in the context of the contract specifications, the award criteria and the conditions for the contract execution, as far as these objectives are related to the subject of the public contract.

(2) If possible and appropriate in view of the relevant subject of the public contract, environmental characteristics of the works, goods or services, in particular energy efficiency and energy saving criteria, as well as the use of energy from renewable sources, must be taken into account in the technical specifications.

Such criteria must be included in the performance and functional requirements across all stages of the lifecycle of works, goods or services, including the research and development to be conducted, production, trade and the associated conditions, transport, use and maintenance, during the service life of a product or building or while a service is being provided, starting with the procurement of raw materials or the production of resources to the disposal, clean-up operations and termination of the service or use.

If public-sector contracting authorities intend to purchase work, goods or services with such specific environment-related characteristics, those must be demanded that bear a seal of quality that is accessible to all involved and is related to the subject of the public contract and has requirements that are defined by a third party upon which the economic operator applying for the seal of quality can exercise no significant influence.

(3) The contracting authorities shall award the contract to the economically most advantageous tender. The evaluation of the economically most advantageous tender shall primarily be based on the lifecycle costing approach. Apart from that, further award criteria can be defined, provided that they are linked to the subject of the public contract and their overall weighting does not exceed that of the lifecycle costs. Further award criteria may include additional environmental aspects to promote the use of energy from renewable sources, energy efficiency and energy saving, particularly ones that go beyond the minimum requirements contained in the specifications.

The lifecycle costing comprises the following costs during the lifecycle of a product, a service or a work, wholly or partially:

- a) Costs borne by the public contracting authority or other users, such as:
  - i) procurement costs,
  - ii) usage costs, such as e.g. consumption of energy and other resources,
  - iii) maintenance costs,
  - iv) costs at the end of the useful life (cost of removal, recycling and disposal);
- b) Costs arising from the external effects of the environmental impact, linked to the product, the service or work during its lifecycle, provided that its monetary value can be determined and assessed; such costs may be the costs of the emission of greenhouse gases or other pollutants, as well as costs to limit further climate change.

(4) The public contracting authorities shall also define environment-related conditions, particularly in view of energy efficiency and energy saving, as well as the use of energy from renewable sources for the implementation of the contract, provided that this is possible and appropriate in view of the relevant subject of the public contract. These conditions must not be discriminating and must be included in the invitation to tender or in the contract documentation.

## TITLE VI

### INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

#### CHAPTER 1

#### COMMITTEE

##### Article 21

#### **Committee to Promote Environmentally Friendly Forms of Energy**

An advisory committee shall be established, composed of representatives of the Member States. The Committee shall participate in the preparations for the Council's work and in the coordination of the tasks of the Member States in accordance with this Protocol and advise the Commission and the Council.

#### CHAPTER 2

#### COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

##### Article 22

#### **International Agreements**

(1) Each within their respective powers, the Union and the Member States shall cooperate with third countries and international organisations to promote energy efficiency and energy savings as well as to develop and disseminate new and renewable energy sources.

(2) The Union may conclude agreements with one or more third countries or with one or more international organisations on the achievement of the objectives mentioned in Article 1 by acting in accordance with the procedure pursuant to Article 218 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

## TITLE VII

### FINAL PROVISIONS

##### Article 23

#### **Ratification and Entry into Force**



(1) This Protocol must be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the Italian Republic.

(2) This Protocol shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the deposit of the last instrument of ratification.

#### Article 24

#### **Authentic Texts**

This Protocol, drawn up in a single original in the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish language, each of these texts being equally authentic, shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the Italian Republic, which shall transmit a certified copy to each of the governments of the other signatory States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorised, have affixed their signatures below this Protocol.