

**POST PRESS CONFERENCE ARTICLE FROM REUTERS NEWS SERVICE:**

**18:41 12Sep2005 EU lawmakers call for hydrogen subsidies**

**BRUSSELS, Sept 12 (Reuters)** - Europe should subsidize research and investment into hydrogen made from renewable energy sources, a cross-party group of EU lawmakers said on Monday, urging rapid action to counter rising oil prices.

Deputies from the left and right in the European Parliament jointly backed the use of hydrogen generated from solar energy, wind, energy crops and tidal power.

They opposed burning fossil fuels or nuclear power to produce the gas which is being increasingly used as a way to make hydrogen.

Fuel cells based on hydrogen are expected to play a bigger role in providing power in the future.

Green Party deputy Claude Turmes from Luxembourg said there was no quick fix for high oil prices.

The European Parliament should make energy efficiency and cutting consumption a key point in draft EU legislation which is under review, he said.

The parliament wants to cut energy consumption by 11.5 percent by 2015 in the 25-nation bloc but EU governments want no binding limit.

Jeremy Rifkin, author of the 2002 book 'The Hydrogen Economy', said hydrogen-powered fuel cells in mobile phones and laptops would be available within three years and the first hydrogen-powered cars would be tested in 2009.

The European Commission is spending 890 million euros (\$1.10 billion) on sustainable energy research including renewable power sources between 2000 and 2006.

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