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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (first reading) - Adoption of the legislative act - Statements

Statement by the Commission

The Commission notes that both Co-Legislators have agreed on Article 4 with the content going beyond the general principles of the Commission proposal COM(2016) 767 final. While fully supporting the objectives of the Directive, the Commission considers that they could be achieved without the agreed wording of paragraphs 3 (third sub-paragraph), 4 (second and third sub-paragraphs), 5 and 6 of Article 4, as demonstrated by the currently applicable Directive 2009/28/EC.

Statement by Belgium

The abstention does not detract Belgium from being a strong advocate for a sustainable energy and climate policy as laid down in the Council Conclusions of October 2014 and contained in the Paris Agreement.

The ambitious goal set out in the submitted proposal, presents Belgium nonetheless with a real challenge to achieve this in a cost efficient manner.

Notwithstanding this challenge, Belgium will continue to deliver constructive contributions to achieve the set goal.

Statement by Germany

Germany wishes to comment as follows on Article 2(14) and (15), Article 21 and recitals 66 to 69 in the version set out in the current final compromise text (PE-CONS 48/18):

The Federal Government agrees to the final compromise text (PE-CONS 48/18) of the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast) on the understanding that the exemption from charges and fees provided for in point (a)(ii) of Article 21(2) applies in principle only to individual self-consumption, unless the Member States provide otherwise; and that recital 69 is intended to make it clear that point (a) of Article 21(3) covers both the possibility of levying fees and charges if support is simultaneously provided via a support scheme and the possibility of applying only partial exemptions, provided that the outcome is the same: the economic viability of such projects is ensured.

Statement by the Czech Republic

Having voted against the final compromise on the Directive doesn't mean that the Czech Republic would stop promoting sustainable energy policy and climate protection as laid down in the Council Conclusions of October 2014 and agreed in the Paris Agreement. The Czech Republic aims at further development and promotion of renewable energy sources to ensure the increasing role of renewable energy sources in the energy mix.

The Czech Republic will constructively contribute to the achievement of the overall EU target as well as the individual sectoral targets. These contributions will be delivered in a cost-efficient manner, taking into account the geographical and climatic conditions as well as economic possibilities of the Czech Republic. In this context, it is necessary to take into account the funds already spent to support renewable energy sources

The Czech Republic acts very responsibly and consistently in meeting the target for energy from RES until 2020. The very same approach will be pursued in the period from 2021 to 2030. This is evidenced by the fact that the binding target for RES for the year 2020 was reached by the Czech Republic 7 years earlier than required by European legislation.

Statement by Croatia

The Republic of Croatia will support the adoption but expresses its concerns regarding the level of at least 14 % of the mainstream renewable energy use in the transport sector by 2030, as already stated in the discussions within the Council.

Although there is a need to meet the decarbonisation goals and to significantly decrease the energy consumption in order to reach the Energy Union goals, we regret that the above mentioned level of ambition was defined without taking into account the state of the economy and the different levels of technological development in the Member States.
