**Council of the
European Union**

Brussels, 12 December 2018
(OR. en)

**15210/1/18
REV 1**

**CLIMA 245
ENV 856
ENER 423
TRANS 622
SUSTDEV 22
AGRI 622
ECOFIN 1173
COMPET 849
MI 943**

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	15011/18 - COM(2018) 773 final
Subject:	Clean Planet for all: Strategic long-term vision for a climate neutral economy
	– Presidency background paper for exchange of views

1. On 28 November 2018, the Commission adopted the Communication 'A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy'.

2. At the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 20 December 2018, following the Commission's presentation of the above Communication, ministers will be invited to hold an exchange of views. The Presidency has prepared a background paper (in Annex) and a question to help structure the discussion.

3.	The <u>Permanent Representatives Committee</u> is invited to take note of the Presidency background paper, as set out in the <u>Annex</u> to this note, and to forward it to Council for the above-mentioned exchange of views.

_____

Clean Planet for all: Strategic long-term vision for a climate-neutral economy

Presidency background paper for exchange of views

Background:

The European Commission has presented a strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate-neutral economy ('A Clean Planet for all') in response to the European Council's request in March 2018. The Communication sets out the Commission's vision for a climate-neutral Europe by 2050.

The Strategy demonstrates how the European Union can lead the way by investing in realistic technological solutions, creating citizen ownership, and better coordinating measures in key areas such as industrial policy, finance and research. It is furthermore essential that this be achieved by way of a socially just transition, by enhancing the EU's competitiveness in global markets and by creating highly skilled jobs and sustainable growth in Europe. Also, ancillary benefits for other environmental problems, such as air quality or biodiversity loss, need to be strengthened.

The Strategy encompasses nearly all relevant policy areas and is consistent with the objective of the Paris Agreement to holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. At this moment in time, the Strategy does not set any concrete targets for the Union, for example for 2040 or 2050. It does, however, present options and related scenarios for long-term 'climate neutrality', with a view to achieving a net reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of between 80 % and 100 % by 2050.

Scenarios analysed:

The Strategy lays down eight different scenarios in line with the Paris Agreement, which can be classified into three categories:

- 80–85 % reduction of GHG emissions by 2050

    Scenarios 1-5 would lead to an 80–85 % reduction of GHG emissions by means of increased energy efficiency and the use of different innovative technologies.

- 90 % reduction of GHG emissions by 2050

    Scenario 6 would lead to a 90 % reduction by means of a cost-efficient combination of the options laid down in the previous scenarios.

- 100 % reduction of GHG emissions by 2050

    Scenarios 7 and 8 show that climate neutrality by 2050 could only be achieved through more bioenergy and carbon sinks, increased use of CCS, an effective circular economy and behavioural changes.

The Strategy identifies seven strategic areas for further measures, and lays down a set of elements for an enabling framework, such as better framework conditions for the necessary investments, for research and innovation, for social and economic transition and international cooperation, and for strengthening the role of citizens and the local level.

Next steps:

The European Commission invites the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee and the European Investment Bank to consider the EU vision for a climate-neutral Europe by 2050, and suggests that in order to prepare EU Heads of State or Government for shaping the Future of Europe at the Special Summit on 9 May 2019 in Sibiu, all relevant Council formations should hold extensive policy debates on the contribution of their respective policy areas to the overall vision.

In parallel, in the first half of 2019, the European Commission will take the debate on the necessary deep economic transformation and the profound societal change in an open and inclusive manner to all EU Member States. National parliaments, business, non-governmental organisations, cities, communities and citizens, including young people, are encouraged to participate in Citizens' Dialogues. They should discuss the EU's fair contribution to the efficient achievement of the temperature goals laid down in the Paris Agreement in the long term, and identify key building blocks to achieve this transformation.

Furthermore, Member States will present their draft national climate and energy plans by the end of 2018, which will be vital to achieving the EU's 2030 climate and energy objectives. By 1 January 2020 Member States will also be required to have developed individual long-term national 2050 strategies.

This EU-wide debate should enable the EU to present an ambitious strategy to the UNFCCC by 2020, as required by the Paris Agreement, setting an example to all parties to the Agreement.

Question for ministers:

−   Do ministers consider that the Commission Communication 'A Clean Planet for all' sets the right direction for the EU's long-term contribution to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement? In this regard, what steps should be taken in the process to ensure the greatest possible complementarity and synergies between the long-term strategies to be developed by the Union and the Member States?

———————————