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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Work programme of the incoming Presidency - Information from the Latvian delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Latvian delegation.

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INCOMING PRESIDENCY

The Latvian Presidency will devote its efforts to ensuring that the discussions on the definition on the main principles of the Energy Union concept take place within the first quarter of 2015. To ensure a smooth beginning of this process the Presidency in close cooperation with the Commission and Member States is planning to organize a high level ministerial conference devoted to this topic early 2015 in Riga. Following the formulation of the principles of the Energy Union, the Latvian Presidency will proceed with the work on the implementation plan.

Recognizing the five pillars of the Energy Union as suggested by the Commission, the previous decisions of the European Council and current events in the energy sector, the Latvian Presidency will focus on the following three areas of the energy policy: implementation of the European Energy Security Strategy, completion of the internal market, assessment of the benefits of strengthened regional cooperation.

Firstly, the Presidency intends to continue discussions on the completion and further development of the internal energy market. The central element of the discussion on the internal market will be energy infrastructure. Here the Presidency sees the need to focus inter alia on the aim of ending Member States' isolation from European networks by 2015, on the 10% interconnection target and on the second list of PCIs. Recognizing the importance of the regulatory framework, the Presidency will pay due attention to such crucial elements as network codes for electricity and gas and measures for the retail market.

Secondly, taking into account the European Council conclusions of October 2014, the Latvian Presidency will continue to follow the implementation of the European Energy Security Strategy. Assessment of implemented short term measures would provide significant input for the further discussions. The Latvian Presidency is also committed to contributing to following steps towards medium and long term actions such as the development of the existing legislation setting the framework for the security of supply.

Thirdly, the Latvian Presidency will work on establishing a coherent governance model in line with the Climate and Energy Framework for 2030. During their informal meeting in Latvia on the 15th-16th of April, Energy Ministers will discuss the first elements of the governance structure. In this context the central issue would be the assessment of the benefits that regional cooperation could provide.

Moreover the Latvian Presidency will continue the efforts of previous Presidencies towards developing a sustainable energy policy. The Presidency aims to conclude discussions with the European Parliament at second reading on the Directive amending Directive 98/70/EC relating to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and amending Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (so called “ILUC Directive”). The Presidency will continue moving towards a more energy efficient Europe inter alia regarding the development of the energy labelling and eco-design measures. Discussions on energy efficiency aspects are also foreseen in the framework of the Council meetings.

The Presidency will pay due attention to ongoing negotiations on energy issues within international fora, including within the European neighborhood. The Presidency will further explore the modernization of several multilateral cooperation formats, such as the Energy Community and the Energy Charter.