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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Fridays For Future - Information from the Presidency and Greta Thunberg

The significant part of the Environment Council on 5 March will focus on climate issues. This Council meeting will address some of the most important environmental topics and components of the European Green Deal, as well as the European Green Deal itself. EU ministers in charge for environment and climate will seize the first opportunity to discuss the European Climate law, one of the key elements of the European Green Deal, essential for Europe to become the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. Furthermore, the March Environment Council will be asked to adopt and submit to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) its Long-term strategy. In doing this, the EU would once again show to the world its leadership, dedication and readiness to tackle one of the major challenges of our times - the climate change, and to stay on path for the climate transition towards a climate-neutral and green economy.

Therefore, given the importance of this Environment Council for stepping up our action to manage the climate change in the EU, but also at the global level, the Croatian Presidency decided to invite Ms. Greta Thunberg, today's symbol in the fight against climate change to address the Council.

In 2018, Ms. Thunberg launched a movement #FridaysForFuture, after she sat in front of the Swedish parliament every school day for three weeks to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis. Since then, Ms. Thunberg's campaigning has gained international recognition and has become an international movement of school students who take time off from class on Fridays to protest.

Ms. Thunberg has received a number of honours and awards including: honorary Fellowship of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society; Time magazine's 100 most influential people and the youngest Time Person of the Year; inclusion in the Forbes list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women (2019) and two consecutive nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize (2019 and 2020).

Ms. Thunberg has been invited on 4 March to the College of Commissioners and the European Parliament. Last year she attended the UNGA in New York and this year she attended again the World Economic Forum in Davos.
