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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: Work programme of the incoming Presidency
- Presentation by the Luxembourg delegation

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

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INCOMING LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY

European energy policy is at a turning point. The progress made in the past with regard to the opening of markets, security of supply, the deployment of renewable energy and the implementation of measures for the reduction of consumption have not sufficiently succeeded in making the EU more resilient towards its suppliers or enable an energy transition at competitive and affordable prices, while allowing sufficient deployment of new technologies and job creation in these emerging sectors.

That is why the President of the Commission, of the European Council and Heads of State and Government called for the establishment of an Energy Union.

This Energy Union will differ from EU energy policy if two conditions are met: a) the emergence of a horizontal energy strategy translated into an ambitious action plan and b) the establishment of a new governance for that is what all unions of states require.

The Luxembourg Presidency will give priority to the implementation of a governance of the Energy Union with a forward-looking climate policy, based on a virtuous dialogue between the Commission and Member States, highlighting the regional dimension while making full use of the EU dimension. The Luxembourg Presidency, in close cooperation with the Commission, intends to adopt conclusions on Energy Union governance at the November TTE (Energy) Council.

The December European Council will continue to give guidance in the implementation of the Energy Union Framework Strategy on the basis of the Commission's first Report on the State of the Energy Union and TTE (Energy) Council conclusions.

The Presidency will swiftly start legislative work on the revision of the Energy Labelling Directive. Luxembourg will also address other initiatives expected from the Commission, in particular the market design and retail market communications. In addition, the Presidency looks forward to the review of the regulation on security of gas, LNG and storage and heating and cooling strategies and to start work on these proposals as soon as possible.

Luxembourg will emphasize innovation, research, new technologies of energy transition mainly in the renewable energy sector and energy efficiency, as key drivers of growth, wealth and jobs in the EU: from September 21st to September 23rd, Luxembourg will live under the halo of new technologies in energy starting with the Set-Plan Conference - the Presidency expects that the Commission will contribute to this event by presenting an updated SET Plan - and prolonged by the Informal Council.

Luxembourg will address the key issue of financing, regarding a sustainable energy transition, in the context of the implementation of EFSI and ensure better coordination of all existing EU financial instruments.

Another policy initiative during the Luxembourg Presidency will be the examination of the draft Commission delegated act establishing the second list of projects of common interest (PCI). The first Infrastructure Forum will take place during the Luxembourg Presidency, and the results of the discussions may feed into the Communication accompanying the second list of PCIs, providing a broad outlook of infrastructure development in the EU until 2020 and beyond in the 2030 horizon.

On the international field, the state of play of the Southern Corridor, relations with Ukraine (including the follow-up to of the October 2014 winter package), North America (especially Canada) and the Euro-Med Energy Partnership (including the setting up of a Mediterranean gas hub) will be addressed. This year, the Energy Community will celebrate its 10th anniversary: the Luxembourg Presidency will support this event, as well as the reform of the Energy Community's organization, and the Ministerial meeting in October in Tirana.

Last but not least, the Presidency will address the synergies between the energy sector and development aid.