



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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INFORMATION NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations
Subject: Work programme of the incoming Presidency
- Information from the Italian delegation

Delegations will find attached the abovementioned information note.

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INCOMING PRESIDENCY

The Italian Presidency will devote its efforts to four major pillars of EU energy policy: the framework for climate and energy beyond 2020; EU energy security; the completion of the single energy market; external energy policy.

Recognizing the key role of the energy sector for a stronger and sustainable economic growth, and also in the context of the midterm review of the Europe 2020 strategy, the Italian Presidency will promote in all areas an approach that duly takes into account the cost-effectiveness of EU policy.

The Italian Presidency aims at facilitating an agreement on the new climate and energy framework at the European Council in October promoting a constant, active involvement of the Council. At their informal meeting in Italy the 6th of October, Ministers of energy will discuss on the package, possibly also with the Ministers of environment. The discussion will build on the progress made at the June European Council, including on the proposed EU Energy Security Strategy and on the forthcoming review of the Energy Efficiency Directive. Maximum coherence between the climate-energy framework and the energy security strategy will be ensured.

Following the outcomes of the June European Council, the Italian Presidency will promote a thorough debate on the proposed EU Energy Security Strategy, building also on the results of the Rome G7 energy ministerial and the G7 Summit in Brussels. Due attention will be paid to short, medium and long term measures.

In this context, the completion of the internal energy market by the end of 2014 becomes an absolute priority. The Italian Presidency will provide a conclusive picture, on the basis of the forthcoming Communication of the Commission on the internal energy market and on further initiatives on the retail market. Council Conclusions in December will take stock of the progress made and outline further actions needed to the completion of the internal energy market.

Regarding the external dimension of the European energy policy, the Presidency considers that the first priority of the EU is to ensure an increased security of energy supply to all Member States throughout a better diversification of sources and routes. The Presidency intends also to focus the attention on the Euro-Mediterranean relations.

The Italian Presidency will continue to foster the opening of the Southern Gas Corridor, the development of a Mediterranean gas hub and the opportunities offered by the LNG market.

The Presidency will follow the presentation of a “Fitness Check” of the EU legislation in the refining sector, promoting the adoption of the proposed measures through the continuation of the EU Refining Forum and fostering a stronger coordination between energy experts and industrial policy experts.

The Italian Presidency will try to advance and possibly finalize 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”).
