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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Any other business The Hydrogen Initiative - Information from the Austrian delegation

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Austrian delegation.

ANNEX

Information note

The Hydrogen Initiative

Hydrogen can play a major role in decarbonising the energy system. Taking leadership in early implementation of hydrogen applications allows for reducing energy import dependency and strengthens the competitiveness of industry in Europe.

In order to harvest the potentials of renewable hydrogen technology, the internal energy market requires further cooperation among Member States as well as between private and public sector.

Therefore, the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union called Member States at the informal meeting of Energy Ministers on 18 September 2018 to sign "The Hydrogen Initiative". At the preceding High-Level Conference on 17 September, participating businesses, organisations and institutions also had the opportunity to sign the declaration.

Austria is pleased that Sweden also assured its full support at the end of July 2019. In sum, 27 Member States, 2 EFTA states, the European Commission as well as around 100 businesses, organisations and institutions have supported the Hydrogen Initiative. Together, the signatories created a strong political signal for renewable hydrogen across the EU.