

Brussels, 20 November 2020
(OR. en)

13065/20

LIMITE

ENER 437
RECH 450
IND 214
CLIMA 299

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions 'Towards a hydrogen market for Europe' <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Preparation for the approval- Decision to use the written procedure

1. On 8 July 2020, the Commission presented the Communication entitled '*A hydrogen strategy for a climate-neutral Europe*'. It recognises that hydrogen is essential to support the EU's commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and describes the necessary elements to scale-up a market for hydrogen in Europe, outlining a possible legislative framework for supply, demand and transportation of hydrogen. It acknowledges the need to rapidly reduce emissions from existing hydrogen production and sets the strategic objective of installing at least 6 GW of renewable hydrogen electrolyzers in the EU by 2024 and 40 GW by 2030.
2. With a view to preparing the Council conclusions, Member States were asked for written answers to a set of detailed questions in the key areas of hydrogen market development prepared by the Presidency and discussions were held at the Energy Working Party (EWP) at its meetings on 9 and 16 July and 1 September and 8 September 2020.
3. On 5 October 2020, the Presidency hosted a High Level Conference on Hydrogen during which the speakers and panelists discussed the necessary steps towards a hydrogen market, including development of demand, supply and transport infrastructure, while focusing on the important first steps of an enabling regulatory framework conducive to the scale-up of a market for hydrogen.

4. As a consequence of the above, on 19 October 2020 the Presidency shared with the delegations its proposal for the envisaged Council conclusions 'Towards a hydrogen market for Europe'. The draft and its revision (12075/20 REV1) were discussed at the EWP at its meetings on 27 October and 10 November 2020 and Member States were asked to submit written comments. Moreover, the Presidency held informal consultations amongst members of the EWP. The text of the conclusions as specified in doc. 13071/20 represents the result of these extensive discussions.
5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
- confirm its agreement on all other parts of the text of the draft Council conclusions as set out in document 13071/20; and
 - decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/430, that the Council uses the written procedure for the adoption of the Council conclusions.
-