



Council of the
European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: Work programme of the incoming Presidency
- Information from the Netherlands delegation

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

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INCOMING DUTCH PRESIDENCY

Pursuing work towards an Energy Union with a forward-looking climate policy, as stated in the Strategic Agenda, will be one of the key priorities of the Dutch Presidency. We will devote our efforts to actively taking up the current and the expected initiatives related to the Energy Union. The Netherlands aims to start negotiations with the European Parliament and Commission on the review of the directive on energy labelling, depending on the progress in the Parliament. Furthermore, we will swiftly start legislative work on the expected review of the regulation on security of gas supply (994/2010) and on the review of the decision to set up an information exchange mechanism for intergovernmental agreements (994/2012). Both reviews are expected to be presented by the Commission at the beginning of 2016. We will address the progress of the negotiations on these legislative reviews at the Energy Council on 6th June. The Netherlands will also address other initiatives expected from the Commission, such as the LNG and Storage strategy and the Heating and Cooling strategy. The Presidency will also pay attention to ongoing negotiations on energy issues within international fora.

The Dutch presidency will look closely at the Energy Union's priority of a well-functioning internal energy market and at the necessity of regional cooperation. The Commission is expected to publish legislative proposals on electricity market design towards the end of 2016. During our Presidency the Council will be able to give political guidance on these legislative proposals. This will include an informal Ministerial meeting on this subject on 10th and 11th April.

The Netherlands also intends to address the potential of North Sea regional cooperation in a High-Level energy meeting on 4th February. The focus will be on better coordination of market actors and governments on regulation and spatial planning, thereby reducing costs for the construction of offshore windmills and the rollout of an electricity infrastructure. Furthermore, during this meeting we aim to discuss the benefits and challenges of regional cooperation in general.