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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Follow-up to the Communication on the draft national energy and climate plans "United in delivering the Energy Union and climate action" - Exchange of views

1. On 18 June 2019, the Commission adopted the Communication "United in delivering the Energy Union and climate action" accompanied by Member State specific recommendations on the draft national energy and climate plans.
2. The Communication was presented to the TTE (Energy) Council on 25 June 2019, followed by an initial exchange of views among Energy Ministers. The Communication and recommendations were furthermore presented to the Energy Working Party (EWP), where they were assessed in detail in the course of several meetings, and furthermore thoroughly discussed at the TTE (Energy) Council on 24 September 2019.
3. The Presidency intends to have another ministerial debate before the finalization of the national energy and climate plans by the Member States, allowing also the European Commission to provide information on the current state of play. In order to guide this exchange of views among Ministers on 4 December 2019, the Presidency prepared a background paper and questions in the Annex to this Note.

Communication on the draft national energy and climate plans, "United in delivering the Energy Union and climate action"

**Background paper for the exchange of views at the TTE Energy Council
on 4 December 2019**

The Governance of the Energy Union framework and, notably, National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), are key measures to pursue the objectives of the Energy Union. Following the publication of their respective draft NECPs by the Member States at the end of 2018, in June 2019, the Commission issued its assessment of draft NECPs and related recommendations to Member States for finalising their plans. In that context, the Commission pointed to a number of examples of good practice on completeness of draft NECPs.

The Commission's assessment of the draft NECPs, identified gaps between national ambition levels for 2030 and the EU 2030 targets for energy efficiency and renewable energy. More concretely, there is a substantial ambition gap for energy efficiency ranging from 6.2 to 2.3 percentage points, which corresponds to attaining a 26.3% to 30.2% target by 2030. On renewable energy, the aggregated effect of the current draft plans would reach between 30.4% and 31.9% in 2030, amounting to a narrow, but non-negligible, ambition gap.

In response to the Commission's assessment and recommendations, Member States have put efforts into revising their draft plans in view of finalising them by end of this year, with several Member States already having indicated that their final NECPs would include higher national contributions for the EU's 2030 renewable energy and energy efficiency targets. The Member States' efforts in preparing solid NECPs have been supported by, inter alia by having held a range of discussions at ministerial and at Energy Working Party level . Given that further progress with decarbonisation depends crucially on achieving the Union's 2030 energy efficiency and renewable energy targets, the Presidency and the Commission consider it important that the NECP's reflect properly those targets.

To facilitate the finalisation of NECPs by Member States, the Presidency would like to provide the Commission with an opportunity to deliver an informal assessment, based on recent indications by Member States, of any remaining ambition gaps that may remain.

Member States will be invited to comment on the finalization of their NECPs with a focus on:

Is there further progress that the Member States' can inform the Presidency and the Commission about, in addressing ambition gaps that have been identified in their draft national plans in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy?
