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### **INFORMATION NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

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Subject: Any other business

Balticconnector disruption between Finland and Estonia on 8 October 2023  
- Information from the Finnish and Estonian delegations

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In view of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 17 October 2023, delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Finnish and Estonian delegations.

**Balticconnector disruption between Finland and Estonia on 8 October 2023 - information from the Finnish and Estonian delegations**

Gasgrid Finland, the responsible Finnish transmission system operator, and Elering AS, the responsible Estonian Transmission system operator, informed the authorities on Sunday 8 October that a leak causing disruption in gas transmission had been detected in the Balticconnector gas pipeline between Finland and Estonia in the early hours of the same day. The breach was located on 10 October in Finland's economic zone. Gasgrid estimates that it will take about five months to repair the gas pipeline.

In addition, quite close and soon after the Balticconnector leak, a fault hit one undersea communication cable between Estonia and Finland. The cable fault is in the Estonian economic zone. The cause of the event and linkage to Balticconnector event is under investigation.

The Balticconnector is the first and only gas interconnector between Finland and Estonia, connecting Finland to the rest of Europe and contributing to the security of supply in the Baltic region. It is an important connection for both Finland and Estonia to diversify the gas supply routes and contributing to the security of supply of both countries. As an EU Project of Common Interest (PCI), the Balticconnector is a common project of whole EU, which received a significant financial support from CEF (Connecting Europe Facility).

With regard to the security of energy supply, Finland's gas supply system remains stable, with gas supply secured by the floating LNG terminal in Inkoo. The terminal has the capacity and capability to supply the gas Finland needs through the coming winter. The investment in floating LNG terminal is now ensuring good preparedness to crises situations.

Regarding Estonian security of gas supply Balticconnector disruption has no immediate affect to Estonian gas consumers. Estonian gas supply is stable and ensured from Latvian underground gas storage, where Estonian suppliers hold their gas amounts which are enough to cover the whole winter consumption for Estonia. On top of that, Estonia has created a state strategic gas reserve in the amount of 1 TWh that covers up to 3 months of Estonian supply during wintertime, this reserve is also stored in Incukalns. In addition to stored gas amounts there is a supply route available from Klaipeda LNG terminal and Lithuanian-Poland interconnection GIPL. For the time being, when Estonia has only one gas supply route left, extra care has been put to monitor and secure it in order to minimize the risk of any new hazard events.

In Finland, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, and in Estonia, the Ministry of Climate are monitoring the situation as ministries responsible for energy markets and security of energy supply.

Regarding the Balticconnector disruption, Finland's National Bureau of Investigation is in charge of investigating the incident, supported by the Border Guard and other authorities. The Finnish Border Guard has confirmed that the damage has been caused by external force.

A close cooperation between Finland and Estonia is ongoing to find out the cause of the event and to repair the damage caused to Balticconnector as soon as possible.

We are also discussing potential technical measures how to enhance the resilience of critical undersea infrastructure, including stockpiling certain critical components for repair works etc. We hope for EU support in these activities, and in supporting all Member States in examining their crisis procedures and preparedness.