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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Third Clean Air Forum (Madrid, 18-19 November 2021)
– Information from the Spanish delegation

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Spanish delegation on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 20 December 2021.

**Third Clean Air Forum
(Madrid, 18-19 November 2021)**

– Information from the Spanish delegation –

Spain is grateful to the European Commission for organising, in close collaboration with the Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, the Third EU Clean Air Forum in Madrid. Air pollution remains the number one environmental health problem in the EU. We recognise the great value of the Forum as an opportunity to discuss solutions to this pressing problem.

The first EU Clean Air Forum was held in Paris in 2017 and the second in Bratislava in 2019. This third Forum focused on the relationship between air quality and health, the right to clean air and the review of EU air quality legislation.

The Forum has proven to be an effective tool for reflection on the development and implementation of effective air-quality policies, projects and programmes at European, national and local levels, and to report on the ongoing review of EU standards. Through this reflection and debate, the aim of the Forum has been to facilitate the implementation of European, national and local air quality policies.

The third Forum focused on six themes, with high-level interventions and panel discussions on: 1) air quality and health; 2) engaging with cities and citizens; 3) linking air quality, climate and recovery; 4) air pollution, climate change and biodiversity; 5) access to justice and the right to clean air; and 6) air quality – a review of EU regulation.

National and European authorities responsible for air-quality policies, as well as various stakeholders, participated in the Forum. The Third Vice-President and Minister for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Teresa Ribera, opened the Forum, together with Commission Executive Vice-President Frans Timmermans. The Director-General of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Commissioner for the Environment, Virginijus Sinkevicius, the Mayor of Madrid, José Luis Martínez Almeida, and the writer Antonio Muñoz Molina, among others, also participated and made relevant contributions to the debate.

The European Air Quality Index mobile application was launched at the Forum. Developed by the European Environment Agency and the European Commission, the index allows users to learn more about air quality and its impact where they live, work or travel on their smartphones and other mobile devices.

The Forum was attended by around 200 onsite participants and more than 500 online. The event was also streamed via the EC's website.

