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**NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 15 December 2025 Timely publication of Heating and Cooling Strategy - Information from Latvia, Austria, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia

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***Timely publication of Heating and Cooling Strategy***

On December 9 2025, a joint letter was sent by Latvia, Austria, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia. The letter was addressed to Commissioner Jørgensen and is included as an annex. The signatories stressed that the EU needs to continue its efforts in development of a robust heating and cooling sector and strongly supported the imminent publication of the EU Heating and Cooling Strategy.

9 December 2025

*Joint Ministerial Letter on the Timely Publication of Heating  
and Cooling Strategy*

Dear Commissioner Jørgensen,

We, the undersigned Ministers, share a belief that the EU needs to continue its efforts in development of a robust heating and cooling sector and strongly support the imminent publication of the EU Heating and Cooling Strategy.

The heating and cooling sector has a significant role to play in the EU's progress towards achieving its 2040 climate goals. Decarbonisation of the energy sector will play a key role, and in this respect, there is a need for an increased focus on the decarbonization efforts within the one of Europe's major energy-consuming sectors, namely heating and cooling. The heating sector including district heating offers great decarbonisation potential, which, however, remains largely untapped at EU level. Moreover, overall energy demand is expected to rise, accompanied by higher peak electricity demand, due to increased cooling needs in the summer months in many Member States especially in the south of Europe.

We agree that by 2040, electrification will serve as the primary catalyst for the energy transition, however in the situations where electrification does not present the optimal solution, is not feasible or limited by delayed electricity infrastructure development to the necessary scale other sustainable renewable energy sources can make a major contribution. Taking this into account, the EU needs to set out a concrete and comprehensive direction for action in the heating and cooling sector on our way towards cost efficient decarbonisation of energy sector.

At this critical juncture, when momentum and political will are aligned, the timely publication of a dedicated EU Heating and Cooling Strategy would send a clear signal of commitment and leadership. Recently 15 Member States of the EU jointly issued a non-paper stressing the importance of the heating and cooling sector in 2040 climate and energy framework and called on the Commission to revise its outdated EU Heating and Cooling Strategy from 2016 and to bring it in line with the 2040 climate targets. On 16th December 2024 in its Conclusions Council called on the Commission to draw up a comprehensive strategy on the decarbonisation of heating and cooling. Therefore, we strongly welcome the Commission commitment to put forward a stand-alone EU Heating and Cooling Strategy in Q1 2026 as it was announced in the Commissions Communication "Action Plan for Affordable Energy Unlocking the true value of our Energy Union to secure affordable, efficient and clean energy for all Europeans". We agree with the Commission that such strategy needs to build upon the success of the REPowerEU Plan and will further support EU energy policy objectives. We are convinced that such step will

not only pave the way to cost efficient decarbonisation, but also contribute to energy security, reduced energy poverty, energy system integration, sector coupling, increased flexibility and will have positive impact on economic aspects such as job creation and value creation. Therefore, we share the view that timely presenting the strategy as a comprehensive, stand-alone document would not only provide a transparent framework for collective action but also foster trust and confidence to deliver on its priorities and will reflect the diversity of effective solutions that respect existing infrastructures and regional specificities.

We thank you for your continued efforts and commitment and we encourage you to take swift and decisive action to proceed with the publication of the EU Heating and Cooling Strategy without delay. Please be assured of our full support and readiness to contribute constructively to the process.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr. Kaspars MELNIS**

Minister of Climate and Energy of Latvia;

**Ms. Elisabeth ZEHETNER**

State Secretary for Energy, Austria;

**Mr. Andres SUTT**

Minister of Energy and the Environment of Estonia;

**Mr Nikos TSAFOS**

Deputy Minister of Energy of Greece;

**Mr. Csaba LANTOS**

Minister for Energy of Hungary;

**Mr. Darragh O'BRIEN**

Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment of Ireland;

**Mr Žygimantas VAIČIŪNAS**

Minister of Energy of Lithuania;

**Mr. Lex DELLES**

Minister for the Economy, SMEs, Energy and Tourism of Luxembourg;

**Mr. Miłosz MOTYKA**

Minister of Energy of Poland;

**Ms. Maria da GRAÇA CARVALHO**

Minister for Environment and Energy of Portugal;

**Mr. Bojan KUMER**

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Energy of the Republic of Slovenia

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