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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 Strengthening regional energy security: Greece's pivotal role in diversification of gas supply - Information from Greece

Strengthening regional energy security: Greece's pivotal role in diversification of gas supply

The activation and progressive development of the Vertical Corridor stand at the center of Greece's growing role in strengthening the security of energy supply across Southeastern and Eastern Europe. By linking Greek LNG infrastructure with the gas systems of Bulgaria, Romania, and ultimately Ukraine, the Vertical Corridor provides a diversified and reliable route for the transmission of natural gas northward. This emerging pathway enhances regional resilience, reduces dependence on traditional supply channels such as the TurkStream pipeline, and enables greater flexibility in the sourcing and delivery of LNG. As infrastructure upgrades continue, with expanded capacities expected by 2026, the Vertical Corridor is positioned to become a key strategic axis supporting the stability and energy autonomy of partner countries.

Within this broader framework, the recent P-TEC ministerial meeting held in Athens on 6-7 November 2025 highlighted Greece's expanding regional role. A significant component of the discussions centered on the country's progress in hydrocarbon exploration, underscoring its potential contribution to future domestic production and to the diversification of supply in the wider region. Notably, ExxonMobil's farm-in agreement for Block 2 in the Ionian Sea marks a major step forward, complemented by advanced consultations with Chevron regarding offshore prospects south of Crete and the Peloponnese. The Greek government presented these developments as clear indications of international confidence in the potential of the Greek Exclusive Economic Zone, with exploratory drilling projected for 2026–2027 pending regulatory milestones.

Complementing these domestic advances, Greece and Ukraine formalized an energy cooperation agreement on 16-17 November 2025, securing the flow of U.S. LNG through Greek terminals and onward via the Vertical Corridor to bolster Ukraine's energy resilience for the winter of 2025/2026. This initiative exemplifies Greece's commitment to supporting regional partners and reinforcing collective security of supply during a period of heightened challenges.

Together, the activation of the Vertical Corridor and the new momentum in hydrocarbon exploration reaffirm Greece's strategic role as both an energy gateway and a stabilizing force in Southeastern Europe. These developments contribute to a more diversified, resilient, and cooperative regional energy landscape, strengthening long-term prospects for security of supply and regional stability.
