



Brussels, 18 December 2023  
(OR. en)

16773/23

LIMITE

ENER 696

### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

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Subject: Ministerial Conclusions of the High-Level Group of Central and South Eastern Europe Energy Connectivity

- Authorisation to sign a non-binding instrument

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1. On 5 July 2023, the Commission informed the Working Party on Energy of its intention to endorse on behalf of the EU the Ministerial Conclusions of the High-Level Group of Central and South Eastern Europe Energy Connectivity <sup>1</sup>.
2. On 18 July 2023, the Energy Working Party discussed the approach proposed by the Commission, with the understanding that the Commission will inform the Working Party on the advancement of the negotiations on the Ministerial Conclusions with parties concerned and will revert to the Council at the end of the negotiation process to seek the Council's authorisation to endorse the Ministerial Conclusions of the High-Level Group of Central and South Eastern Europe Energy Connectivity on behalf of the EU.
3. On 18 September 2023 the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the EU such Ministerial Conclusions (ST 11974/23).

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<sup>1</sup> WK 9153/23.

4. On 12 December 2023, the Working Party on Energy discussed the text of the draft Ministerial Conclusions as set out in document WK 16510/23. Few Member States had comments. These were solved without changing the text.
5. Between 13 and 15 December, the text was put under informal written consultation to the Working Party on Energy. There were no objections.
6. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
  - confirm its agreement on the text of the Council Conclusions, as set out in document ST 16776/23;
  - invite the Council to authorise the Commission, to sign on behalf of the Union, the Ministerial Conclusions of the High-Level Group of Central and South Eastern Europe Energy Connectivity at the CESEC Ministerial meeting on 19 January 2024 in Athens, Greece, as set out in document ST 16776/23, subject to possible small adjustments as a result of negotiations with the relevant partners, but without changes in substance.

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