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Subject:	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC - Note from Austria

Delegations will find attached a note relating to the position of Austria on the general approach reached on 16 December 2015 on the proposal above-mentioned.

ANNEX

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC
- Note from Austria -

A general approach was adopted with qualified majority at the meeting of the Council of the European Union (Environment) on 16 December 2015 with dissenting votes i. a. from Austria.

The reason for the dissenting vote from Austria are the emission reduction commitments for 2030 for Austria contained in Annex II of the proposal, which remained largely unchanged compared to the original proposal by the LV Presidency from March 2015. During the Council meeting on 16 December 2015, the Austrian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management tabled compromise figures with respect to the reduction commitments for Austria. However, these figures were not taken into account by the LU Presidency.

The commitments contained in the general approach would constitute an enormous challenge for Austria if adopted in particular for ammonia (NH3) and nitrogen oxides (NOx). The national scenarios calculated by the Austrian Environmental Agency show that the reduction targets cannot be reached even with additional measures.

For a majority of MS the adopted reduction commitments were relaxed significantly compared to the original proposal. The compromise figures proposed by Austria would keep the overall health impact reduction at 48 %, the level currently foreseen for a large majority of MS.

Austria would therefore once again table the following figures as national emission reduction ceilings for 2030:

SO2 -40 %, NOx -63 %, NMVOC -38 %, NH3 -6 %, PM2.5 -46 %.

To avoid national commitments that are not achievable by proportionate measures, these figures should be taken into account during the upcoming Trilogue meetings.