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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: Any other business

The Nature Restoration Regulation – its effects on energy production and deployment

- Information from the Danish delegation

In view of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 28 March, delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Danish delegation.

The Nature Restoration Regulation – its effects on energy production and deployment

The EU needs a massive deployment of renewable energy in order to achieve our climate targets and deliver on our goal to phase out Russia energy as soon as possible, while promoting balanced co-existence with healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems. It is of outmost importance to find a balanced approach between these parallel sets of public interests.

Renewable energy should be considered as being in the overriding public interest and serving public safety, and we need to take all relevant and appropriate steps to tackle slow and complex permitting.

Bearing this in mind, **it is important that the Commission's proposal for the Nature Restoration Regulation does not go in the opposite direction of the REPowerEU Plan. We cannot afford to slow down the steps necessary to deliver on the necessary deployment of renewables.**

Precisely, the proposal on Nature Restoration Regulation requires Member States to put in place measures for achieving “good condition” on at least 90 pct. of listed habitat areas on land and sea by 2050 and avoid deterioration. Non-fulfilment of the obligations may be justified due to certain conditions. However, this must be assessed on a case by case basis. It is important that using exemptions does not complicate already complex permitting procedures for renewable energy development, causing additional delays and costs for the green transition.

Especially on sea, the acceleration of renewable energy projects as well as other marine activities including Carbon Capture and Storage will require more space than the proposal allows for. Restoring 90 pct. of the area to good condition would simply leave too small an area for activities not compatible with nature restoration.

In light of the above, **we invite the Commission and Member States to thoroughly assess the implications of the Commission's proposal for the Nature Restoration Regulation on the energy sector** and how we ensure a sufficient acceleration of renewable energy projects with regards to achieving national and Union climate and energy objectives.