Council of the
European Union

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8992/20

LIMITE

PE-QE 101

REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
No. prev. doc.:	5551/2020
Subject:	COMPROMISE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL PROPOSED AS DRAFT REPLY TO QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER P-004463/2019 - Łukasz Kohut 'National 2030 energy and climate plans in the context of the European Green Deal'

1. Delegations will find attached:

   – the text of the above question for written answer;

   – a compromise proposed as a draft reply based on 5551/2020.

Priority question for written answer P-004463/2019
to the Council
Rule 138
Łukasz Kohut

Subject: National 2030 energy and climate plans in the context of the European Green Deal

Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action required Member States to draw up national energy and climate plans for the period up until 2030.

The regulation's objective is to ensure that strategies and measures are implemented in order to meet the objectives and targets of the Energy Union and the long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions commitments made under the Paris Agreement, and – for the first ten-year period from 2021 to 2030 – the Union's 2030 targets for energy and climate in particular.

Article 3 of the Regulation required Member States to submit their plans to the Commission by the end of 2019.

On 11 December 2019, the Commission published a communication on the European Green Deal – a new ‘green’ growth strategy.

I would therefore like to ask the Council:

1 Is the Council planning to discuss how much convergence there should be between individual national energy and climate plans, in particular in the case of the beneficiary regions of the Just Transition Fund?

2 Is it planning to play an active role in the implementation of the various instruments of the European Green Deal, and what will be the role of the national energy and climate plans in this?

EN
P-004463/2019
Reply

Following the publication of recommendations by the European Commission on the Member States' draft national energy and climate plans (NECPs) on 18 June 2018, the Council held discussions on the NECPs at three subsequent meetings. At its meeting on 24 September 2019, ministers were already invited to present updates to their draft NECPs and indicate any changes with regard to their national contributions for energy efficiency and renewable energy. The most recent debate, held on 4 December 2019, was a follow-up to this exchange of views[1]. Taking the Commission's recommendations into consideration, nearly all of Member States presented their final NECPs by now.

In its conclusions[2] of 12 December 2019 the European Council took note of the Commission Communication on the European Green Deal and asked the Council to take work forward. It recognised the need to put in place an enabling framework that benefits all Member States and encompasses adequate instruments, incentives, support and investments to ensure a cost-effective and just, as well as socially balanced and fair transition, taking into account different national circumstances in terms of starting points. The European Council welcomed the Commission's announcement that its initial proposals would aim at facilitating EUR 100 billion of investment through the Just Transition Mechanism. On 27 May 2020, as part of its proposed recovery package the Commission presented a revised proposal regarding the Just Transition Mechanism with substantially increased funding.

The Council stands ready to take forward its work in line with the guidance provided by the European Council in its conclusions of 12 December 2019. On the basis of this guidance, the Council will exercise its role as co-legislator in examining and adopting the upcoming proposals for concrete instruments of the European Green Deal, as well as concerning the proposals under the Commission's recovery package, which covers all economic sectors.

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[1] ST 14695/19
[2] EUCO 29/19