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European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: **Any other business**

Transition to zero-emission light-duty vehicles

- Information from the Danish delegation, supported by the Greek, Irish, Luxembourg, Maltese, the Netherlands and Austrian delegations
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Delegations will find attached an information note prepared by the Danish delegation, supported by the Greek, Irish, Luxembourg, Maltese, the Netherlands and Austrian delegations on the above-mentioned subject for consideration under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 3 June 2021.

TRANSITION TO ZERO-EMISSION LIGHT-DUTY VEHICLES – INFORMATION BY THE DANISH DELEGATION (AOB)

19 May 2021

Information note from the Danish Delegation

Reaching the EU’s target of becoming climate neutral by 2050 and reducing net domestic greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030 will require a swift transition of the transport sector.

As the Commission set out in its European Green Deal, transport emissions must be reduced by 90 per cent by 2050 in order to reach the target of mid-century climate neutrality with road transport playing a vital role as it accounts for 70 per cent of all transport related carbon emissions.

Denmark is playing an active role in the transition towards a sustainable future and has set a number of ambitious initiatives in place. At the forefront of this is a phase out date for the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030.

As legislators, we must give clear signals and provide predictability for car manufacturers and consumers across the EU towards zero-emission vehicles. We need a clear direction with an EU-wide phase-out date for petrol and diesel cars and vans, a clear legal framework that allows member states to move ahead nationally with ambitious phase-out dates, as well as initiatives to support a well-functioning charging infrastructure.

Aiming for climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest, zero emission vehicles such as electric vehicles must be at the forefront of the transition.

On 10 March 2021 Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta and the Netherlands sent a non-paper to the Commission, in which the signatories called for:

- 1) A phase-out date for the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans in the EU in line with the objective of mid-century climate neutrality;
- 2) Ensuring that the EU legislation facilitates the green transition – both at the EU level and for individual Member States, allowing Member States to move ahead by taking action at national level to incentivise early phase-out of new petrol and diesel cars and vans.
- 3) Ambitious and cost-effective policies and regulation at EU level to drive emission reductions in road transport;
- 4) Strengthen infrastructure for zero-emission mobility.

The above-mentioned Member States also agree that the Commission’s ‘Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy’ includes many forward-looking and productive initiatives.

However, there is still need for a specific plan with proposals for policy initiatives and incentives for the transition to zero-emission vehicles. The Commission is therefore encouraged to present an assessment as well as a specific proposal for a phase-out date and how this could be achieved via EU legislation and measures.

Climate change does not wait for Europe to be ready for this transition. We must act now. The EU and its member states must maintain the highest of ambition when it comes to delivering on climate action. We therefore also encourage fellow member states to join us in our calls on the Commission.
