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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's net-zero technology manufacturing ecosystem and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 (**first reading**) - Adoption of the legislative act = Statement

Statement by Austria

Austria sees the Net Zero Industry Act as a key milestone for accelerating the green transition, strengthening competitiveness and achieving the common European climate neutrality target. Austria supports the objective of this proposed regulation to accelerate the development and expansion of production capacity, particularly for renewable energy in the EU, and therefore agrees with this compromise proposal.

However, Austria will not support a transformation which is based on nuclear technology, promotes it even further and focuses on it as a technology of the future. Nuclear technology is neither sustainable, nor cost-effective, nor safe. For Austria, nuclear technologies are certainly not among the technologies that serve the green transformation. Austria therefore regrets that nuclear technology has been included and is given equal treatment in the regulation.

As regards Chapter III on CO_2 injection capacity, Austria notes that a national ban on CO_2 storage (the Federal Act on the Prohibition of Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide) is currently in force, and is being evaluated. In this context, we are in favour of a rapid regional extension of the CO_2 injection obligation to the EEA area. We would also emphasise that the development of storage capacity must go hand in hand with the expansion of the CO_2 infrastructure, which is currently lacking.