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CONTRIBUTION

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on Energy

Subject: Gas Storage Regulation - IT comments

Delegations will find in the annex the IT comments on the Gas Storage Regulation.

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Comments Italy Gas Storage:

- **Line 11a - new recital 1a** proposed by EP - we ask to replace “demand reduction” with “energy savings and energy efficiency measures”;
- **Line 13 - recital 3** - we support the draft agreement and insist on the inclusion of “voluntary” next to “gas demand reduction”;
- **Line 18c - new recital 8c** proposed by EP - Italy prefers that no references to a **minimum percentage below which the storage fill level cannot fall** are included in the draft agreement;
- **Line 23q - par. 11a** - we propose the deletion of par. 11a, we are opposed to the inclusion of a procedure for the Commission to adopt an Implementing Act setting a fill level for the Member State that has deviated from the target;
- **Line 23ac – par. 2 of Article 6d par. 2** - we propose the deletion of paragraph 2 as also requested by the Council mandate, for the purpose of simplification and non-duplication of burdens on operators and competent authorities; updated information on the level of storage is in fact retrieved by the Commission independently on the AGSI platform, while for information on the origin of gas the Commission already receives this information from the designated authorities for the certification of storage operators;
- **Line 23ae - par. 5 of Art. 6d** - we prefer the Council's version, which leaves the adoption of necessary filling and enforcement measures to the member states alone (EP proposes that the COM can also impose such measures);
- **Line 23af** - we propose the deletion of the parenthetical “in accordance with Article 6d(2),” for consistency with the call for the deletion of Article 6d(2) (see Line 23ac above).
- Notation to be deleted at **Line 23g**
Tying the planned flexibility (of 5%) for technical characteristics of storage facilities to the verification of security impacts on other connected Member States is not appropriate; in fact, if a facility requesting the 5% flexibility because it needs a slower rate of filling, it could not in any way increase the rate of filling and meet the filling target to meet the needs of a connected State.

“A Member State may use the flexibilities provided under paragraph 5a subparagraph 2 as long as this does not impact negatively on the ability of directly connected Member States to supply gas to their protected customers or this does not impact negatively on the functioning of the internal market in gas. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States using the flexibilities referred to in this subparagraph, shall assess the potential consequences of implementing these flexibilities, and inform the Gas Coordination Group immediately”.