



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 21 May 2010

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NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Council
Subject:	Towards a new Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020 - Draft Council Conclusions

1. In the framework of the new Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth, and in preparation of the future Energy Action Plan to be endorsed by the European Council in March 2011 for which the Commission is currently undertaking a consultation exercise, the Presidency presented draft Council conclusions. These draft Council conclusions are intended to support the preparation of the new Energy Action Plan 2011-2020, as well as the procedural steps leading up to its endorsement. Care was taken that these draft Council conclusions do not prejudice any issues that might be addressed during the consultation under way.
2. The text resulting from the examination of the draft Council conclusions by the Coreper is attached and acceptable to delegations, subject to a scrutiny reservation by the Austrian delegation.
3. Council is invited to agree on the text of the draft Council conclusions as reflected in the Annex.

TOWARDS A NEW ENERGY STRATEGY FOR EUROPE 2011-2020
Draft Council Conclusions

The Council

STRESSES the key role that energy policy is playing to promote a more energy and resource-efficient, sustainable, low carbon, secure, and competitive Europe in the framework of the Europe 2020 new strategy for jobs and growth.

REITERATES its commitment to the climate and sustainable energy headline targets for 2020 agreed by the European Council and to the objectives and principles assigned by the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union to energy policy.

ENCOURAGES all Member States to pursue their efforts towards the achievement of these targets.

REAFFIRMS that, for energy policy to deliver in a credible manner and ensure fair prices to consumers, the first step is to ensure timely and full implementation of existing legislation and make good use of programmes and instruments.

Taking into account the long lead time of investment in the energy sector as well as the EU long term climate targets, CALLS for this energy strategy to be coherent with long term decarbonisation objectives and TAKES NOTE of the Commission's intention to present an Energy Roadmap to 2050, as indicated in the Commission's work programme.

RECALLS that to be successful the European energy policy should make full use of the synergies between its internal and external dimensions. In this respect, a strong and well-defined external energy policy should be based on careful analysis. The Council therefore invites the Commission to submit a comprehensive analysis of the external dimension of the European energy policy.

STRESSES that any future development of European energy policy should have a clear added-value and be proportionate, should contribute to effective coordination between Member States and the Commission at national, regional and European level, and should, from its design stage, consider the regulatory and the financial aspects as well as the human and physical investment required for its implementation.

EMPHASIZES the importance of regional cooperation on energy as a useful tool contributing to consistency in the implementation of measures taken at EU level.

Given the long time span of the envisaged Strategy, EMPHASIZES the importance of building in the future energy policy adequate and cost-efficient reporting and monitoring requirements as well as review mechanisms that will facilitate policy adaptation in the light of changing circumstances, whilst respecting the right of Member States to decide on their energy mix.

TAKES NOTE of the Commission's intention to further develop and submit to the Council the actions it proposes to take, notably through the energy-relevant flagship initiative "Resource efficient Europe" as well as through the forthcoming "Energy Infrastructure Package" reviewing the trans-European energy network policy in the light of the TEN-E implementation report as requested by the European Council in March 2009.

WELCOMES the Commission's intention to proceed to a wide ranging consultation in preparation of the new Energy Strategy.

COMMENDS the Commission for having based its consultation on a comprehensive document, not excluding *a priori* any policy area or instrument.

CONFIRMS its determination to be fully involved in the shaping of this Strategy and RECALLS in this respect Member States' contribution on the occasion of the policy debate held at the TTE Council in March 2010 as well as earlier contributions ¹, notably when preparing the Action Plan 2007-2009.

WELCOMES the Commission's intention, on the basis of this consultation, to table a Communication setting out the future Energy Strategy for 2011-2020.

INVITES the Commission to table this Communication early enough for its examination on the occasion of the December TTE (Energy) Council as a useful input to the preparation of the European Council's discussion on energy policy in early 2011 and to the preparation of an Action Plan by the TTE (Energy) Council, with a view to its endorsement by the European Council in March 2011.

¹ For instance:

- Council conclusions on Energy Security of 12 January 2009
- Council conclusions on the Second Strategic Energy Review of 19 February 2009
- European Council conclusions of 15-16 October 2008 (section "Energy security")
- European Council conclusions of 19-20 March 2009 (section "Enhancing the Union's energy security")
- Council conclusions on the Action Plan on Energy Efficiency of 23 November 2006.