



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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from : General Secretariat of the Council
to : Coreper / Council
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Subject : PREPARATION OF THE TTE (ENERGY) COUNCIL
ON 28 FEBRUARY 2008
Climate-Energy Legislative Package
- Policy debate

In response to the presentation by the Commission of the above package, notably the Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources ("Renewables Directive"), the Council will hold a policy debate.

The Presidency suggests focussing the debate on the four draft questions reflected in the Annex. In view of the nature of the Climate Action and Renewable Energy package, the Presidency intends to put two, more horizontal questions to both the Energy Council on 28 February and to the Environment Council on 3 March, as well as two, more specific questions to the Energy Council.

It should be noted that, as usual, these questions are without prejudice to other important topics that ministers may wish to address. Delegations are invited to forward their contribution to the debate beforehand in writing, allowing their representative at the Council to focus on key messages.

Coreper could invite the Council to conduct its policy debate on the basis of the attached questions.

Climate Action and Renewable Energy package
Draft questions for the Council policy debate

Questions for both ENER and ENVI ministers:

1. Ambition of the package as a whole

An adequate balance between promoting environmental sustainability and combating climate change, ensuring the competitiveness of European economies and increasing security of supply is of paramount importance. In this light, are the measures contained in the "Climate Action and Renewable Energy" package sufficient to meet the objectives and targets which were endorsed by the EU Heads of State and Government at the 2007 Spring European Council?

2. Sustainability Criteria

Sustainability is one of the pillars of Climate-Energy policy as well as an objective for several other EU policies; trade in biomass and biofuels will be required for the EU to achieve its targets. In that light, how do you assess the effectiveness of the sustainability scheme (will it ensure sustainable production of biofuels on the one hand and enable efficient trade to and within the Community on the other)?

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Questions for ENER ministers:

3. Renewable Energy Sources (RES)

Are the provisions of the RES Directive (such as binding targets and indicative intermediate targets) and the package generally adequate to ensure stability for investments necessary to reach the goals?

4. Trade of Guarantees of Origin (GOs)

The RES Directive proposes a system of tradable GOs. Does this system as envisaged provide the flexible and cost-effective way to reach the targets while ensuring the successful operation of the national support schemes?