



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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15176/11

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Delegations

No. Cion prop.: 14632/11 ENV 710 POLGEN 140 ENER 300 TRANS 245 MAR 116 RECH 314
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Subject: Adoption of the Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on the above subject, which will be dealt with under "other business" at the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 10 October 2011.

Adoption of the Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe**- Information from the Commission -**

- The Commission adopted the Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe on 20 September 2011, COM(2011) 571. The Roadmap aims to create a framework for the implementation of the comprehensive set of initiatives under the Resource Efficiency Flagship Initiative of Europe 2020, and to align the objectives of policies ranging from energy, transport, taxation, construction, agriculture to climate, water, fisheries and biodiversity.
- It builds on the EU's strategy on sustainable development and takes into account progress made on the 2005 Thematic Strategy on the Sustainable Use of Natural Resources.
- The Roadmap seeks to integrate resource efficiency in various policy domains, guided by the objectives of inducing a sustainable recovery from the crisis and achieving a competitive, resource-efficient and low-carbon economy in the EU. It addresses the interdependencies between the economy, well-being and natural capital, and emphasises the economic and environmental benefits that resource efficiency can bring by tackling inconsistencies in policy and market failures.
- The Roadmap sets out a vision for the structural and technological changes needed to put Europe on a sustainable path to economic growth and competitiveness up to 2050, with milestones to be reached by 2020. It also puts forward immediate actions - for the Commission and the Member States - to start the process.
- The transformation to a resource-efficient economy is addressed from three policy angles:
 - First, creating the horizontal conditions by promoting sustainable consumption and production, innovation, getting the prices right, in particular by shifting from labour to environmental taxation and eliminating environmentally harmful subsidies;
 - Secondly, safeguarding key natural resources, and recognising their economic value;
 - And thirdly, addressing how the economy meets the needs for food, housing and mobility, since the respective sectors are identified to exert the greatest pressure on the environment.
- The Roadmap recognises the importance of investing in the transition, requiring not only spending for green solutions, but greening of all public and private investments. The Commission proposal for a Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 has already made major steps towards integrating resource efficiency in the EU budget.
- Governance has a key role in the implementation; therefore as of 2012 resource efficiency has to be more widely integrated in the European Semester. The Commission will also establish a dynamic multi-stakeholder process to define resource efficiency targets and indicators, and will count on the active participation of the Member States in this effort.
- The Commission invites the Council to endorse the Roadmap and is looking forward to a fruitful discussion in various Council formations, which will give an important impetus for the implementation of the Roadmap.