NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations
Subject: International relations in the field of energy:
   a) United States
   b) Energy Community
   c) Eastern Partnership
   d) Russia
   e) Others
      - Information from the Commission and the Presidency

Delegations will find attached factual information concerning the Council's item "International relations in the field of energy".
The Council addressed energy issues with third countries and regions on the following occasions:

a) **United States**

The United States and the European Union established the US-EU Energy Council in November 2009, in order to deepen dialogue on strategic energy issues of mutual interest, foster cooperation on energy policies and further strengthen research collaboration on energy efficiency and clean energy technologies. The three Working Groups (on energy security, on energy technologies research and on energy policy and deployment) have met frequently over the past year, and have exchanged views and developed common understanding on several energy security issues. The EU-US Energy Council made strides towards harmonising standards and policies on new technologies, and has launched several cooperation initiatives on clean energy technology research. A Ministerial meeting of the US-EU Energy Council took place in Lisbon, on 19 November 2010. On that occasion, progress was reviewed and new priorities were identified for the future work of the Council and its Working groups. A joint press statement was adopted, and the results were reported to the EU-US Summit meeting that was held the next day.

b) **Energy Community**

The eighth meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community was held in Skopje, FYROM, on 24 September 2010. Moldova for the first time participated as full member, and Ukraine signed the protocol that will allow its accession to the Community once its internal ratification process is completed. The Ministerial Council adopted decisions / recommendations on implementation of EU legislation related to energy efficiency, renewables and the third internal energy market package, and on the extension of the mandate of two task forces working on the transposition of the EU renewables and energy efficiency *acquis*. Ministers expressed concern about lack of transposition, implementation and enforcement in certain areas. Moldova will hold the following presidency of the Energy Community.

The Ministerial meeting was preceded by the eighteenth Permanent High Level Group meeting (23 September 2010) which was mostly devoted to reviewing the implementation of the Energy Community *acquis*, on the basis of a comprehensive report by the Energy Community secretariat covering all energy sectors (gas, electricity, oil, renewables, energy efficiency).
c) **Eastern Partnership**

In the context of the multilateral thematic Platform 3 "Energy Security", a workshop on electricity interconnections was held on 7 July 2010 in Brussels. Discussions were devoted to electricity interconnections between the EU and partner countries and between partner countries themselves.

A Workshop on Sustainable Energy Finance took place on 26 October in Brussels, followed by a meeting of the Platform 3 on energy security the next day. At the latter occasion, energy efficiency in buildings was the main theme; furthermore, partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) presented Security of Supply Statements containing information about their infrastructure, its use and availability. In general, participants noted the potential convergence of work between this Platform and the Energy Community.

A meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Eastern Partnership countries is scheduled to take place on 23 November in Brussels; at this meeting, Ministers are expected to take note of progress on energy security. The second Eastern Partnership Summit of Heads of State and Government is scheduled to take place on 26 May 2010 in Budapest.

d) **Russia**

On 22 November 2010 in Brussels, an event celebrating the tenth anniversary of the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue took place, at which a joint report entitled "10 years of the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue: opportunities for our future Energy Partnership" was endorsed. This event was followed by the fifth meeting of the EU-Russia Permanent Partnership Council on Energy. At that meeting, note was taken of the progress of the three Thematic Groups and a long-term roadmap for cooperation was agreed. The EU side *inter alia* underlined the need to reflect the importance of the EU-Russia energy relationship in ambitious energy provisions of the new EU-Russia Agreement currently being negotiated. Furthermore, the EU drew the attention to the key contribution that the Energy Dialogue should make to the EU-Russia Partnership for Modernisation, and that this contribution should be based on energy aspects relating to innovation, technology, energy efficiency, investment climate and the rule of law.
The Russian Federation has announced that, following the tabling in 2009 of its outline for a new international energy framework ('Medvedev proposals'), it has prepared (and may soon present) a draft proposal for a Convention on international energy security.

e) Others

Energy issues were addressed at several Summits, including the EU-Brazil Summit held in Brasilia on 14 July, the eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) on 4-5 October in Brussels, the EU-Ukraine Summit held on 22 November in Brussels, and the EU-China Summit held on 6 October in Brussels, where it was agreed to further enhance the policy dialogue and practical cooperation under the framework of the EU-China Climate Change Partnership and the Energy Dialogue (cooperation should, inter alia, focus on renewable energies, energy efficiency, smart grids and clean coal technologies including carbon capture and storage);

The third Africa-EU Summit will take place in Tripoli, Libya, on 29-30 November 2010, and is expected to note progress in the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) and to support a number of headline goals in this area, relating to crossborder electricity connections, the use of natural gas in Africa, energy efficiency and renewable energy. It should be noted in this context that at a High Level meeting held in Vienna, on 14-15 September, the Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP) was launched, with a planned EU contribution of €5 million to start the programme. This programme of cooperation is due to contribute to the African renewable energy targets for 2020. It aims at bringing relevant renewable energy technologies to the market in Africa.

The Presidency, the Commission and several EU Member States participated in the first Clean Energy Ministerial meeting, which was held on 19-20 July in Washington, D.C.. As a result of the conference and inspired in part by the Major Economies Forum-Global Partnership’s Technology Action Plans released in Copenhagen in December 2009, Ministers agreed to launch 11 initiatives on various topics, for example the International Smart Grid Action Network, the Solar and LED Energy Access Program, the Electric Vehicles Initiative and the Clean Energy Solutions Centers. The second Clean Energy Ministerial will be held in the United Arab Emirates in April 2011.