INFORMATION NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations
Subject: European Economic Recovery Plan
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Commission on the above.
ANNEX

INFORMATION NOTE
on the implementation of the European Energy Programme for Recovery (EEPR)

Regulation 663/2009 (the "EEPR Regulation") is endowed with a financial envelope of €3,980 million in support of three sub-programmes. In particular, it allocates €2,365 million to gas and electricity infrastructure projects; €565 million to offshore wind electricity projects (OWE); and €1,050 million to carbon capture and storage projects (CCS). Article 3.2 of the Regulation requires that "individual legal commitments implementing the budgetary commitments made in 2009 and 2010 (i.e. €3,980 million) shall be made by 31 December 2010".

At the date of 29 November 2010, the legal commitments have been made for all the 59 projects selected for grant awarding. This represents an amount of €3,833 million, corresponding to 96.3% of the total EEPR envelope. Given the size of the programme, and the unusually tight deadline, this is an excellent result.

Implementation of projects is progressing. Construction works have started and the Programme is playing its role of stimulus to energy infrastructure investments of high EU strategic importance. More details will be available in the annual implementation report that the Commission will transmit to the budgetary authorities in the first quarter 2011, as per Article 28 of the EEPR regulation.

In order to fulfil its commitment made in a declaration annexed to the EEPR Regulation, the Commission adopted on 31 May 2010 a proposal for an amending Regulation providing for the creation of a financial facility supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives. The facility will be allocated €146 million of EEPR unspent funds and will be managed jointly with Financial Institutions such as the EIB and KFW.

Despite the tight deadlines, and thanks to the good co-operation of all parties involved, a compromise agreement was reached between the European Parliament and the Council last October. On 11 November the EP's adopted by an overwhelming majority its position at 1st reading on the text which reflected the compromise reached in trilogues. Once the Council approves the EP's position, the Regulation will be signed by the co-legislators and then published in the OJ (which needs to take place before 31 December 2010, for the sake of timely implementation of the Regulation).