NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: Delegations
Subject: Towards a new Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020
a) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Energy 2020: A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy
b) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond - A Blueprint for an integrated European energy network
- Policy debate in view of the European Council in February

The Commission adopted the Communication "Energy 2020" (doc. 16096/10 + ADD1) on 9 November and the Communication on Infrastructure (doc. 16302/10 + ADD 1, 2 and 3) on 17 November.

The first Communication outlines five priorities - Achieving an energy efficient Europe, Building a pan-European integrated energy market; Empowering consumers and achieving the highest level of safety and security, Extending Europe's leadership in energy technology and innovation, Strengthening the external dimension of the EU energy market.- supported by seventeen actions that will lead to further initiatives, including of a legislative nature, most of them to be presented in the coming eighteen months. The Communication thus defines possible pathways, in terms of policy changes, that are required to achieve the objectives of the EU energy policy.
While the first priority "Achieving an energy efficient Europe" of the Communication "Energy 2020" will be further developed next year, notably through the revised Energy Efficiency Action Plan, the Commission has tabled a non-paper in relation with the definition of energy efficiency objectives.

The second Communication expands on actions under the second priority "Building a pan-European integrated energy market", especially actions 2, 3 and 4, of the Communication "Energy 2020" and combines the identification of priority corridors for electricity, gas and oil in a medium to long term perspective with a new method for strategic planning, including as regards permit granting procedures, and the creation of a stable framework for financing.

Besides the consultation process organised by the Commission from May to June 2010 on the basis of a stocktaking document the preparation process leading to the Communication "Energy 2020" benefited from exchanges of views on several occasions such as the informal meetings of Energy ministers in Seville last January and in Brussels last September, the TTE Council last May and the conclusions adopted then (9744/10), and the meeting of Director-generals for Energy in Ostende last October.

The reflection process that should lead next year to the adoption of an Energy Strategy for 2011-2020 will be pursued at the European Council on 4 February and at the TTE Council on 28 February. It is thus timely for Energy Ministers to provide early views on the two Communications as a contribution to the preparation of the European Council, on the occasion of the policy debate at the coming TTE Council on 3 December.

With a view to facilitating this debate, while addressing the whole Energy Strategy and Infrastructure Communications the Presidency is suggesting the questions set out at Annex. As usual Ministers are invited to focus their oral interventions on key messages, while detailed contributions should be circulated in writing.
1. To reach the objectives of the EU 2020, the energy policy is to be adapted not only to achieve all the set targets but also to incorporate the longer term challenges, with particular regard to consumers. In light of the Commission Communication "Energy 2020: A strategy for competitive, sustainable and secure energy" which are the pathways to reach the objectives?

2. The Communication on Infrastructure proposes an approach combining a series of priorities with a methodology for the identification of projects to implement these priorities. Is the proposed toolbox sufficient to ensure their timely implementation and avoid an excessive burden on consumers? Are there priorities/projects of European interest that would appear to be missing from the list?