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INFORMATION NOTE

From: The Presidency
To: Council
Subject: Informal Competitiveness Council (9 February 2010) - EU Measures planned to promote electric mobility
- Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find annexed a contribution from the Presidency on the abovementioned subject in support of its intervention under "other business" at the TTE Council on 11 - 12 March 2010.
Informal Competitiveness Council (9 February 2010) - EU Measures planned to promote electric mobility

1. The new European Strategy 2020, which is the follow-up of the Lisbon Strategy, has identified as one of its objectives to reach a sustainable social market economy, smart and green. The boost to the electric vehicle can be dealt in this context.

2. An Informal Meeting of Ministers of Competitiveness took place in San Sebastián, Spain, last 9 February 2010. In the meeting the ministers held a debate about the electric vehicle.

3. Several Member States of the European Union have already started to roll out different actions in order to implement the e-vehicle: specific infrastructures for e-cars, national support schemes inside the Single Market.

4. In San Sebastián it was revealed a high degree of readiness for a well-structured coordination effort for the following matters:
   a. Stimulating a European lead manufacturing market for e-cars.
   b. Promoting the adoption of electric vehicles as a regular means of transport, similar to conventional cars.
   c. Paving the way for an European Single market for electric cars.

5. It is necessary a concerted action, encompassing the following issues:
   a. Normalisation and standardisation of the charging process and protocol, battery characteristics and replacement options throughout the Single Market.
   b. Support for research and innovation, with particular emphasis on further improvements for car batteries.
   c. Upgrade of electricity grids and electricity production capacity with a low carbon intensity.
d. Support for cross-border pilot initiatives, market-based demand stimulation measures, regulatory measures and appropriate incentives.
e. A coordination of national support measures and incentives towards these aims, avoiding distortions in the internal market.

Next steps

6. It is foreseen that the Commission presents a Communication regarding the electric vehicle, which could be followed-up by a comprehensive Action Plan as soon as possible.

7. There is also a high degree of support for the Commission's intention to present its European Innovation Plan, which should also contain appropriate initiatives for encouraging innovation in the area of electric car transport.