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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: State of play of the Kyoto Protocol's second commitment period ratification
= Information from the Commission

Delegations will find in Annex an information note on the above, submitted by the Commission, to be dealt with under "other business" at the meeting of the Council (Environment) on 3 March 2014.

Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol's 2nd commitment period

- Information from the Commission -

A timely ratification of the Doha Amendment in early 2015 would enhance the credibility of the EU and its Member States in the UN climate negotiations. This requires the Council to reach a political agreement on the ratification decision at the latest at the **Environment Council** meeting in June 2014 and Member States should start making preparations for their ratification already now.

At the Doha climate conference in December 2012 the EU agreed to the Doha Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol establishing a second commitment period (2013-2020). This second commitment period is an important step in the transition to the new global and comprehensive international agreement with all Parties on board, which the EU is committed to finalise in Paris at the end of 2015, and which is to be implemented from 2020 onwards.

The EU is already implementing its 20% reduction commitment for the period up to 2020 under EU legislation which is the basis for the EU's participation in the second commitment period.

Ratification of the Doha Amendment by the EU and its Member States is however necessary to help ensure its formal entry into force as an international agreement. On 6 November 2013, the European Commission put forward proposals for a legislative package to enable this ratification and its technical implementation. This package contains a proposed ratification decision concluding the Doha Amendment and an amendment to the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation.

The Commission has proposed to complete the ratification processes of the Union as well as all Member States in time to allow joint ratification by mid-February 2015. This timetable supports the negotiating process on the 2015 Agreement, where, apart from demonstrating that the EU sticks to its promises, it will also show the EU's commitment to international climate action that is multilateral and rules-based. Moreover, this timetable is needed to meet deadlines for the timely implementation of the second commitment period. A first step for that implementation is the submission of an initial report establishing the emissions budget for the second commitment period in April 2015. This requires Member States to finalise their draft reports in January 2015.

In addition, Member States have indicated that they will need sufficient time to complete their domestic ratification processes, on the basis of the joint fulfilment approach to be agreed in Council, with the consent of the European Parliament.