



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 February 2013

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NOTE

from: Coreper
to: Council

No. Cion prop.: 16202/12 ENER 467 + ADD 1 - ADD 4

Subject: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions
- Making the internal energy market work
= *Policy debate*

1. On 16 November 2012, the Commission presented the above Communication, together with accompanying Staff Working Documents. On 3 December, at the TTE (Energy) Council, the Commission presented the Communication, which formed part of the basis for the exchange of views on the topic "Follow-up to the European Council" ¹. This exchange of views took place in the context of the deadlines set by the European Council: "*Recalling the need to complete the internal energy market fully by 2014 (...) and to ensure that no Member State remains isolated from the European gas and electricity networks after 2015*".

¹ On the basis of doc. 16203/12.

2. The TTE (Energy) Council is invited to hold a debate on the Communication, on the basis of the questions set out under point 3.¹

The discussion will contribute to the preparation of the European Council on Energy to be held on 22 May 2013. To this end, the Presidency will send a summary letter to the President of the European Council outlining the results of this discussion. The discussion will also feed into draft Council conclusions to be presented for adoption at the TTE (Energy) Council on 7 June 2013.

In due course, these conclusions will reflect the orientations set by the European Council.

3. **QUESTIONS**

Question 1

The successful completion of the internal energy market requires further action in a variety of areas; such action by actors at various levels is not simply a legislative process (preparation, adoption and *effective* implementation and enforcement) but also includes other measures.

Taking account of the issues set out in the Commission Communication '*Making the internal energy market work*' and accompanying documentation, what are your main priorities and/or concerns with regard to the successful completion of the internal energy market by 2014, including actions to ensure security of supply? What specific actions should the EU take to support Member States in achieving this aim?

¹ Note: as customary, Member States are invited to submit written replies to these questions, preferably *before* the Council policy debate. This will allow Member State representatives to focus on key issues during the debate.

Question 2

In this European Year of Citizens, it is fitting to focus our attention on the rights and roles of citizens who are all consumers of energy. Given that the Union's energy policy has mostly focused on issues related to the supply side, there appears to be a shared view that it is time to tackle demand side issues. Energy consumers have rights, but also a role to play in the new market. Consumers will not secure its benefits - prices lower than they otherwise would be, better service, and improved security of supply - unless they change from passive service recipients to active informed consumers.

Taking account of the issues set out above, how can Member States and the EU drive/support the transition to a more active energy consumer and enhance the involvement of energy consumers in the market? How can the internal energy market be best implemented, and promoted, to ensure these maximum benefits for consumers?
