



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ADDENDUM TO "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: COREPER/COUNCIL

No. Cion prop.: 15813/11 ENER 330 CADREFIN 103 CODEC 1749

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1364/2006/EC and amending Regulations (EC) No 713/2009, 714/2009 and 715/2009 **(first reading)**

- Adoption of the legislative act (LA + S)
- = Statements

COMMON GUIDELINES

Consultation deadline: 20.3.2013

Joint statement by Austria, Bulgaria and Romania

The abovementioned Member States, firmly convinced that hydropower and pumped storage play an important role in meeting the EU renewables target, express their regret for the exclusion of the hydro-pumped electricity storage projects from the projects eligible for EU financial assistance in the form of grants for works, as provided by the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure.

Austria, Bulgaria and Romania recall the acknowledgement, in the Commission's Communication *Renewable Energy: a major player in the European energy market*, that the renewables energy goal is "a headline target of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". At the same time, Austria, Bulgaria and Romania refer to the Energy Roadmap 2050, which indicates that renewable energy sources are an essential part of the three no-regret options to achieve the decarbonisation of the European energy system in the most cost-effective and sustainable way. In addition, the need for major investments, including for speeding up the integration of storage, is also underlined in the last Commission's Communication related to the Internal Energy Market and in the Council conclusions on "Renewables Energy: a major player in the European energy market", adopted today.

Furthermore, considering that hydropower is a major renewables source, with still available potential to be expanded, the development of grid, including storage, is a must for meeting the challenge of infrastructure needs. Therefore, hydro-pumped electricity storage investments fit very well this goal, being of vital importance for both EU energy transition and a well-functioning European electricity market.

In conclusion, recognising the need of this Regulation and in the spirit of overall compromise, we will not object its adoption, but considering the need of financial assistance to make a pump and storage investment economically feasible, we emphasise our preference for the inclusion of the hydro-pumped electricity storage projects in the category of projects eligible for EU financial assistance for works under supplementary criteria.

Statements by Germany

Statement by Germany on Article 15 and recital 30:

Germany assumes that the three-tier approach described in recital 30 will be consistently applied when evaluating the eligibility of projects of common interest in accordance with Article 15. Financing is therefore primarily a task for the market and adequate regulation in the Member States. Public co-financing from the EU's Connecting Europe Facility can be considered only as a last resort. Consequently, for each project it should be examined whether or not there are regulatory investment obstacles before a decision on public support is taken. Insofar as this examination establishes that the financing need of a project can also be covered by adjusting the regulatory framework, EU financing assistance should be ruled out.

Statement by Germany on Article 17(b):

Germany points out that, in the interests of system security and confidentiality of business data, it should be ensured that information on system operation should be supplied only to trustworthy authorities which satisfy the internal market requirements for transmission system operators. Germany therefore assumes that "any entity duly mandated" in Article 8(3)(a)(iii) of (new) Regulation No 714/2009 refers to any entity duly mandated by transmission system operators under existing cooperation (TSC, SSC, Coreso).