



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: Coreper/Council

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Subject: **PREPARATION OF THE TTE (ENERGY) COUNCIL ON 7 JUNE 2013**

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

- Energy Technologies and Innovation

= *Policy debate*

1. On 3 May 2013, the Commission presented the above Communication, together with accompanying Staff Working Documents. In this communication, the Commission sets out its strategy to ensure that the EU continues to have a world-class energy technology and innovation sector to tackle the challenges for 2020 and beyond.
2. In so doing, the Commission stressed five key principles which should guide the EU action in an evolving worldwide energy landscape: adding value at the EU level, looking at the whole energy system when setting priorities, integrating actions along the energy innovation chain and strengthen the link with energy policy, pooling resources and using a portfolio of financial instruments, and keeping options open, while concentrating on the most promising technologies for post 2020.

3. The Commission proposes to focus on some key developments to respond to challenges: unlocking the full potential of energy efficiency especially for end use consumption; the transition to a low carbon competitive energy system; fostering innovation in real environment through a market driven framework.
4. The TTE (Energy) Council on 7 June 2013 is invited to hold a debate on the Communication, on the basis of the questions set out under point 5.¹ The debate will contribute to the ongoing reflection on priorities for R&D& I in Energy until 2020 and beyond as well as on the means to support the implementation of these priorities.

5. ***Question 1***

New technologies and innovation are vital to achieve the EU 2020 objectives in energy, climate, economic and social policy, as well as those for 2030 and 2050. In this respect, the EU's Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan was established in 2008 as the technology framework of the EU's energy and climate policies. The Commission recently published a Consultative Communication on Carbon Capture and Storage on 27 March, 2013 to explore the role of carbon capture and storage in achieving a low carbon economy. In its Communication on "Energy Technologies and Innovation", the need for accelerating innovation in cutting edge low-carbon technologies and innovative solutions, for reducing costs rapidly and speeding up the introduction of new technologies to the market is stressed and the Commission has set out its strategy to ensure that the EU continues to have a world-class energy technology and innovation sector to tackle the challenges for 2020 and beyond.

Taking into account the principles and key developments proposed in the above Communication, would you endorse and support these proposals?

In particular, do you agree that innovation policy needs to address research, deployment of new technology as well as market uptake and do you agree to put in place support for faster market roll-out of sustainable energy technologies?

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

As recalled in section 4 of the Communication, the SET Plan constitutes the reference point for EU, national, regional and private investments in energy research and innovation.

However, the SET Plan would need to be reinforced and adapted in order to respond to new challenges and to better consolidate public and private research and innovation capacity and resources across Europe. For this purpose, the Commission has proposed in its

Communication on "Energy Technologies and Innovation", to ensure the development, together with the SET Plan stakeholders, of an Integrated Roadmap around the priorities identified in the EU Energy technology and innovation strategy by the end of 2013.

Furthermore to define, together with Member States, an Action Plan of joint and individual investments in support of the Integrated Roadmap by mid 2014.

Following the above, could you support the development of an Integrated Roadmap and an Action Plan, as described in the Commission Communication, especially through enhanced coordination of your energy research and innovation programmes as well as through the use of EU Structural and Investment funds, and of EU ETS auctioning revenues and further integration of national institutional funding and research capacities through the European Energy Research Alliance? Could you support the monitoring of the implementation of this Roadmap and Action Plan annually through a robust reporting system based on the Strategic Energy technologies Information System (SETIS) ?
