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NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Delegations

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on
fluorinated greenhouse gases
= Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find annexed an information note from the Presidency on the above-mentioned subject, which will be dealt with under "other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 18 June 2013.

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on fluorinated greenhouse gases

- Information from the Presidency -

On 7 November 2012 the European Commission submitted to the European Parliament and the Council the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on fluorinated greenhouse gases.

The proposal aims to replace Regulation (EC) No 842/2006 on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases in order to ensure a more cost-efficient contribution to achieving the EU's climate objectives by discouraging the use of F-gases with a high impact on the climate in favour of energy-efficient and safe alternatives, and further improving the containment and end-of-life treatment of products and equipment that contain F-gases;

The objectives of the proposal is also to enhance sustainable growth, stimulate innovation and develop green technologies, bring the EU into line with the latest scientific findings at international level, help by example to bring about a consensus on an international agreement to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol and simplify and clarify Regulation (EC) No 842/2006 to reduce administrative burden.

A Draft Report by the Rapporteur Bas Eickhout on the proposal prepared for the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament was published on 1 March 2013.

Intensive examination of the proposal has taken place under the Irish Presidency, while awaiting the legislative work of the European Parliament. Six Working Party meetings were held to explore in depth all key issues, two revised Presidency texts of the proposal were prepared by the Presidency with the aim of improving and clarifying its provisions. The latest Presidency text is set out in document 18272/11. A final Irish Presidency text is currently being drafted.

The Presidency endeavoured to reflect opinions, recommendations and proposals received from Member States and the Commission in order to achieve progress on all issues.

In particular, good progress was made in relation to articles dealing with definitions, prevention of emissions, leak checking, requirements for training and certification, and the proposed service ban. Presidency suggestions on the difficult issue of the pre-charge ban and have been accepted as a useful starting point for further discussion under the Lithuanian Presidency. Further work will also be needed in relation to the scope of Annex III and the profile of the F-Gas phase down in Annex VI.
