



**COUNCIL OF
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to: Council

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Subject: **Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) meeting on
14 February 2012**
- Europe 2020 Strategy
= Policy debate

The EU's 2020 energy policy objectives related to increasing the share of **renewables** in final energy consumption by 20% and moving towards a 20% increase in **energy efficiency** (together with the objective for greenhouse gas emission reductions) are one of the five **headline targets** agreed by the European Council in 2010 for the overall Europe 2020 strategy. Progress towards these two objectives so far as well as possible measures for further progress are addressed in the latest Annual Growth Survey (AGS, 17229/11), released by the Commission in November 2011 ¹.

¹ Notably in section 3 and Annex of the Communication on the AGS and in section 2, 3.3, and 3.8.2 of the Addendum 1 to the Communication and in the tables attached to this Addendum

In its assessment of the commitments set out by Member States in their Spring 2011 National Reform Programmes the AGS conclude that they are insufficient to meet in particular the EU-level target for **energy efficiency**, while noting that work is still ongoing on the overall analysis of Member States' national targets and that a report should be ready by early 2012. In particular it is obviously too early to assess the impact of the Energy Efficiency Plan adopted last June. Regarding **renewable energy** the AGS considers that the 20% target should be met by 2020 if Member States fully implement their renewable action plans.

The AGS also identifies various examples of measures, at national and EU level, with growth potential which can contribute to the achievement of the energy efficiency and renewable targets: improved access to and better use of funding and information, infrastructure, market integration, adaptation of the regulatory framework. Some of these measures, such as the development of smart electricity grids, fall not only under the "Resource-efficient Europe" flagship initiative but also involve for instance the "Digital Agenda for Europe" one.

In line with the general approach to be followed for the annual European Semester exercise starting with the publication of the AGS the TTE Council will have to contribute to the overall report on the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy to be presented to the European Council in March¹. To that effect the TTE (Energy) on 14 February will hold an orientation debate which the Presidency suggests to base on the following questions, reflecting both the growth focus of this year European Semester exercise as well as the overall Europe 2020 context:

1. *In light of the Annual Growth Survey 2012 what do you see as main obstacles to the achievement of the Europe 2020 energy objectives ?*
2. *In your view, which measures in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy have the biggest potential to contribute to growth and job creation and should thus be prioritised ?*

The outcome of the TTE debate as well as delegations' advanced written replies to the questions will be synthesised to provide the TTE input to the overall report on Europe 2020.

¹ The timetable attached to doc. 18456/11 sets out the main steps in the run up to the March European Council