



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 6 June 2012**

**9880/12**

**ENER 168**  
**RELEX 468**

**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council

to: Delegations

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Subject: International relations in the field of energy  
(a) Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development  
(b) EU-OPEC  
(c) EU-China High Level Meeting on Energy  
(d) EU-India  
(e) Southern Corridor  
(f) EU-Russia  
(g) EU-Russia-Belarus  
(h) EU-US (Energy dialogue - Energy Star agreement)  
(i) Strategic Group for International Energy Cooperation  
(j) Intergovernmental energy agreements  
- Information by the Commission / Presidency

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Delegations will find attached factual information concerning the Council's item "International relations in the field of energy".

**a. Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development**

The preparations for the Rio+20 Conference are in the last stages: the third meeting in the Preparatory Committee takes place on 13- 15 June in Rio, prior to the Conference on 20- 22 June. The main EU priorities include *inter alia* concrete goals and targets in five areas: sustainable energy, water, sustainable land management and ecosystems, oceans and resource efficiency.

On sustainable energy the EU wants the Conference to build on the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative, contributed to through the summit on "Sustainable Energy for all" (Brussels, 16 April) and through participation to the work of the technical task forces set by the United Nations. The EU welcomes its three objectives of ensuring universal access to modern energy services by 2030, doubling the global rate of improving energy efficiency by 2030 and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. Furthermore, the EU also proposes a target of ensuring action towards the phasing out of environmentally or economically harmful subsidies, including for fossil fuels, in a manner that protects the poorest and eases the transition for the affected communities.

The EU aims to establish a shared vision for change as well as goals and actions at the international level to be achieved within agreed time limits, including on sustainable energy.

**b. EU-OPEC**

In a context of high and volatile oil prices the EU Energy dialogue with OPEC is an essential component of the broader consumers-producers dialogue. The ninth EU-OPEC Ministerial meeting will take place on 28 June in Brussels. On the draft agenda feature *inter alia* oil market developments, energy policies and long-term outlook on both sides of the market. Discussions on current and future activities will address issues ranging from manpower availability, needs and costs in the petroleum industry, to the preparations of the upcoming roundtable on offshore oil safety and the possibilities for closer cooperation with regards e.g. to security of supply/demand and energy efficiency measures.

*c. EU-China High Level Meeting on Energy*

This meeting took place in Brussels on 3 May, in the presence of China's Vice Premier Li Keqiang. An EU-China Joint Declaration on Energy Security was issued, as well as a Joint Statement for enhanced cooperation on electricity markets between the European Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commission of China.

The Declaration on Energy Security aims to strengthen the exchanges, cooperation and coordination on a number of related issues, including on the safety of nuclear power plants, advanced technologies and regulations that will enhance industrial processes and improve energy conversion efficiency, norms and advanced technologies relating to energy efficiency, the comprehensive use of renewable energy, low-carbon urban energy systems including energy-efficient buildings and clean urban transportation, standards for offshore oil and gas production relating to safety, health and the environment, and on advanced and environmentally sound energy technologies.<sup>1</sup>

Back-to-back with the High Level Meeting, President Barroso and Vice Premier Li Keqiang also signed a Joint Declaration on Urbanisation, launching the EU-China Urbanization Partnership. The Urbanization Partnership aims to provide an open political platform for EU and Chinese stakeholders to cooperate and share experiences in addressing the economic, social and environmental challenges of urbanization.

*d. EU-India*

Following the reaffirmation of the joint commitment to energy cooperation at the EU-India Summit in December 2010, the EU-India Energy Panel in November 2011 agreed to extend its dialogue in several areas. This led to the adoption, at the 12th India-EU Summit in New Delhi on 10 February 2012, of a Joint Declaration for Enhanced Cooperation on Energy between the European Union and the Government of India<sup>2</sup>, which identified a large number of areas for cooperation in the areas of energy security, safety, sustainability, access to energy and energy technologies.

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<sup>1</sup> See doc.

<sup>2</sup> See doc. 6409/12, Annex I

*e. Southern Corridor*

As a means to facilitate progress on the development of the gas infrastructure required to connect gas fields in the Caspian region to European markets, in September 2011 Council issued negotiating directives addressed to the Commission to negotiate an Agreement between Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and the EU on the legal framework for a Trans-Caspian (natural gas) pipeline system. Since then, several rounds of negotiations have taken place and good progress was made. After each round the Commission has reported to the Council Energy Working Party on the issues under negotiation. The topic of the Southern Corridor in general is also evoked regularly under the EU-US Energy Dialogue.

*f. EU-Russia*

Besides the ongoing work and meetings of the various Thematic Groups and the EU-Russia Gas Advisory Council under the EU-Russia Energy Dialogue, energy was a topic at the last EU-Russia Summit in December 2011. At that occasion, the progress in the Energy Dialogue was welcomed, the common interests in the area of energy and good cooperation on security of supply issues were underlined, and the EU reiterated the importance it attaches to the conclusion of the negotiations on the new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which notably includes a chapter on energy.

Energy will again be on the agenda of the 29th EU-Russia summit (St Petersburg, 3-4 June) with topics such as mutually beneficial energy trade, reliable, transparent and rule-based framework for energy cooperation, and cooperation on nuclear safety.

*g. EU-Russia-Belarus*

Council adopted, on 28 February 2012, the mandate for the Commission to negotiate an agreement between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus and the EU on electricity system operation of the Baltic Member States. The aim of these negotiations is to enable the coordinated operation of the Unified Energy System (UES) of Russia and the electricity systems of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus in synchronous mode, in line with market rules and applicable legislation in the territories concerned. The negotiations were started in March; the Commission has reported to the Council Energy Working Party on the issues under negotiation.

***h. EU-US (Energy dialogue - Energy Star agreement)***

The EU-US Energy Council met at Ministerial level in Washington 28 November 2011, on the same day as the EU-US Summit, and reviewed the activities of the three Working Groups (energy security, energy technologies research and energy policy and deployment). Since then, there have been a number of informal contacts focusing mainly on the international oil market as well as a videoconference on 2 May 2012 at which the latest developments concerning the Southern Corridor were discussed, along with Ukraine, the Eastern Mediterranean, Nigeria, Argentina, global oil market issues, the state of play in EU-US discussions on offshore oil and gas safety, unconventional gas and EU-US energy research co-operation.

As described in Note 10494/12, close cooperation between the United States and the European Union also takes place in the context of the "Energy Star" Agreement on energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment.

***i. Strategic Group for International Energy Cooperation***

On 24 April, the first meeting of the Strategic Group for International Energy Cooperation took place in Brussels. The creation of this Group that will meet at the level of Director Generals or their representatives, had been announced by the Commission in September 2011 in its Communication on security of energy supply and international cooperation. The main aim of this new instrument is to promote a coherent approach by the EU and Member States on external energy policy. At the first meeting, time was devoted to a stocktaking of actions undertaken by the Commission as follow-up to its Communication, a presentation of the EU database on energy projects in third countries, and an overview of EU-China cooperation including notably the preparations of the upcoming EU China High Level meeting on 3 May. The second meeting is scheduled for end of June or early July and will focus on Ukraine.

*j. Intergovernmental energy agreements*

In response to the European Council invitation (of 4 February 2011) to make available information on all new and existing bilateral energy agreements with third countries to all other Member States in an appropriate form, the Commission submitted a legislative proposal <sup>3</sup> based on Article 194 TFEU. After intense discussions, Coreper agreed on a position that formed the basis for three informal dialogues with Parliament, from the end of March to early May. After having reflected following the third informal dialogue meeting, Parliament informed Council on 23 May that there is a slight majority that supports the Council's final compromise offer. On 6 June Coreper confirmed that Council will adopt the consolidated text (doc. 10456/12 ADD 1, reflecting the Council's final compromise offer as sent to Parliament after the last informal dialogue) in case of its adoption by Parliament. The consolidated text will be submitted to the vote in the EP ITRE Committee and then Plenary.

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<sup>3</sup> *Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council setting up an information exchange mechanism with regard to intergovernmental agreements between Member States and third countries in the field of energy, doc. 13943/11.*