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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Work programme of the incoming Presidency
- Information from the Maltese delegation

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Maltese delegation.

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INCOMING MALTESE PRESIDENCY

The objective of a resilient Energy Union - which aims at giving EU consumers a secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy - shall steer the work of the Maltese Presidency in the first semester of 2017. In this context, Malta will devote its efforts to continue discussions on the Gas Security of Supply proposal and initiate discussions on the recently published 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' package, as part of the Energy Union dimension.

In terms of a secure Energy Union, the Maltese Presidency will pick up the baton from the Slovak Presidency on the regulation concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply with the objective of working towards a political agreement with the European Parliament. Moreover, the Presidency will promptly start negotiations on the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive as the first step towards the ambitious goal of achieving a low-carbon, competitive and sustainable European Union economy. The Presidency will also seek to initiate discussions on the other legislations within the 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' package, with the aim of facilitating the thorough negotiations due to take place under the ensuing Presidencies. As a result, the TTE (Energy) Council of 26 June 2017 will serve as the appropriate forum for delegations to assess the progress and state of play of the aforementioned legislative initiatives and provide political direction where necessary.

We will also work towards finalising negotiations with the European Parliament on the draft regulation concerning Energy Labelling.

On the wider perspective and in this fast changing energy world, the Presidency intends to keep a close eye on the external dimension of energy affairs. In this context, the Maltese Presidency will put particular emphasis on regional cooperation given that we believe that successful cooperation would facilitate the delivery of the Energy Union's key objectives.

We will endeavour to strengthen and further the work on regional cooperation and engage Member States together with other actors in regional initiatives. Against this backdrop, Malta will highlight the potential of the Mediterranean region by means of a High Level Ministerial Meeting serving as a platform whereby EU Member States and Euro-Med countries, together with other important stakeholders, will come together to share best practices and measures in the field of energy.
