



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 February 2014

6520/14

**ENER 59
CLIMA 13
ENV 143
IND 57
COMPET 112
MI 168
ECOFIN 146
TRANS 62
AGRI 105**

NOTE

from: Permanent Representatives Committee
to: Council

No. Cion prop.: 5644/14 CLIMA 6 ENV 60 ENER 27 IND 24 COMPET 43 MI 69 ECOFIN 65
TRANS 31 AGRI 35 + REV 1 (en) + REV 2 (pl) + ADD 1-2

Subject: Communication from the Commission on "A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030"
- Policy debate

1. On 22 January 2014, the Commission presented the above Communication on "A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030", together with its Impact Assessment.¹ With the present Communication, the Commission suggests a framework for future EU energy and climate policies and intends to launch a process to arrive at a shared understanding of how to take these policies forward in the future.

¹ 5644/14 + REV 1 (en) + REV 2 (pl) + ADD 1-2

2. The main elements of the proposed 2030 framework include a binding EU greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target of 40% below the 1990 level to be achieved domestically, whereby the Commission acknowledges the need for equitable burden-sharing in the context of GHG reductions¹, an EU-wide binding target for renewable energy of at least 27% which would not be translated into national targets through EU legislation, and emphasis on the role of improved energy efficiency and its essential contribution to all the major EU climate and energy policy objectives, but pending an assessment of the impact of existing energy efficiency legislation by mid-2014. The Commission furthermore outlines a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure and sustainable energy to be drawn up by Member States, and proposes a set of key indicators intended to assess progress over time and to provide a factual base for potential policy response.
3. The Communication follows on from a Commission Green Paper on "A 2030 framework for climate and energy policies" of March 2013², which aimed at consulting stakeholders for the development of a 2030 framework, notably on views on the most appropriate range and structure of climate and energy targets for 2030.
4. In its conclusions of 22 May 2013, the European Council welcomed the Commission's Green Paper on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies and decided to return to this issue in March 2014, after the presentation by the Commission of more concrete proposals, to discuss policy options in that regard, bearing in mind the objectives set for the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) under the UNFCCC in 2015.³

¹ The Communication is accompanied by a legislative proposal for a market stability reserve for the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) starting in 2021, aimed at improving its robustness and contributing to the long term stability of the carbon price.

² 8096/13

³ EUCO 75/1/13 REV 1

5. With a view to bringing forward the reflection on climate and energy policies for the period 2020 to 2030 within Council, and in the run-up to the March European Council meeting, the Presidency foresees a policy debate to be held at the TTE (Energy) Council on 4 March 2014.¹ The Working Party on Energy heard a presentation of the Commission's Communication at its meeting on 28 January and held a first exchange of views, followed by a further examination, including of the impact assessment, at its meeting on 10 February.
6. On the basis of the preliminary comments and questions put forward by delegations, the Presidency suggests the following questions in order to structure the above-mentioned policy debate at Council:

From the perspective of energy policy:

1. *Do Member States consider that the architecture and main elements set out in the Communication constitute an adequate and sufficient basis for a framework for climate and energy to 2030 and in support of EU energy policy objectives of sustainability, competitiveness and security of supply?*
2. *The Communication suggests a new governance system for a 2030 framework based on Commission guidance, a bilateral iterative process for the preparation of Member States' plans and commitments, and their assessment led by the Commission, followed by recommendations as appropriate.*
How do Member States see the proposed governance system support a predictable, coordinated and consistent delivery of all climate and energy objectives across the EU, and what principles and mechanisms would be essential?
3. *Do Member States consider that the proposed set of indicators for competitive, secure and sustainable energy represents a comprehensive and effective tool for monitoring and for defining potential policy responses against common benchmarks?*

¹ The Environment Council is set to hold a similar policy debate at its meeting on 3 March 2014 (doc. 6422/14).

These questions are without prejudice to other important topics that Ministers might wish to address in the context of considerations on future EU climate and energy policies. In order to keep the exchange of views as focused as possible, delegations at the Council will be invited to concentrate their interventions on their key messages and provide additional elements in writing.
