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#### OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

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To: Delegations

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Subject: Implementing the EU Global Strategy - strengthening synergies between EU climate and energy diplomacies and elements for priorities for 2017  
- Council conclusions (6 March 2017)

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Delegations will find in the annex to this note the Council conclusions on Implementing the EU Global Strategy - strengthening synergies between EU climate and energy diplomacies and elements for priorities for 2017, as adopted by the Council at its 3525th meeting held on 6 March 2017.

**Implementing the EU Global Strategy - strengthening synergies between EU climate and energy diplomacies and elements for priorities for 2017****Council conclusions**

1. The Council recalls its conclusions of 20 July 2015 and 15 February 2016 which continue to guide the common work of the EU and its Member States on energy and climate diplomacies, the respective Action Plans on EU Energy Diplomacy and EU Climate Diplomacy, as well as the conclusions on the Global Strategy on the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy (EUGS) of 17 October 2016, which call for the implementation of joined-up actions in these fields, and the conclusions on Energy and Development of 28 November 2016, which stress the need for an EU strategic approach.
2. Recalling the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Energy Union Framework Strategy, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Council underlines that tackling climate change and supporting a climate-neutral and resilient future as well as promoting the global transition to low greenhouse gas emissions, climate resilient, competitive and sustainable economies and energy security are mutually reinforcing objectives and constitute integral parts of the EUGS.
3. The Council congratulates the United Nations and the Moroccan COP 22 Presidency for their significant efforts in making COP 22 a success and expresses its support to the upcoming Fiji COP23 Presidency. The Council reiterates the EU's and its Member States' commitment to the Paris Agreement as signalled by its ambition to turn climate goals into climate action, and stresses its continued support for sustaining this positive momentum in the UNFCCC processes and other international climate fora, including by maintaining the global ownership of the Paris Agreement. It emphasises the need for the EU to maintain its leadership in implementing the Paris Agreement and in the transition to low greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient economies. It also calls for Europe to become the world leader in renewable energy, including research, innovation and technologies.

4. In line with the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda and the Marrakech Action Proclamation which reaffirmed the world's determination to fight climate change and confirmed the irreversibility of the transition towards low greenhouse gas emission and climate resilient economies and societies, the Council also resolves to reinvigorate EU Climate Diplomacy and to maintain climate change as a strategic priority in diplomatic dialogues, taking into account the latest developments and changing geopolitical landscape. The Council invites the EU Green Diplomacy Network to update the current Climate Diplomacy Action Plan as soon as possible, with a view to implementing these Council conclusions during 2017/2018.
5. The Council resolves to strengthen synergies and joined-up actions where appropriate between the relevant elements of the EU and Member States' climate and energy diplomacies. This includes better utilising EU and Member States' financial and technical assistance instruments, and strengthening the links with other important policy areas, including economic diplomacy, sustainable development cooperation, nuclear safety, migration, water and food security, ocean and marine resources, disaster preparedness, research and innovation. EU Delegations in coordination with Member States' embassies have a key role to play in promoting more joined-up actions.
6. The Council underlines the importance of sustained and tailor-made partnerships with third countries, as well as with non-state actors, including local and regional authorities, civil society and the private sector, with the aim of supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Energy Union Strategy and to foster the linking of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with national development strategies, and their translation into actionable policies and measures in all sectors of the economy. The Council also highlights the positive economic impact of the transition to low greenhouse gas emission economies for EU and third country economic actors around the world as well as the importance of enhancing energy efficiency and renewable energy in order to ensure universal access to sustainable energy. In this context, the Council considers that climate and energy diplomacies' action in G20 countries – accounting for some 80% of global emissions – will be particularly important, while recognising the importance to continue to support and work together with developing countries in meeting their mitigation and adaptation needs.

7. The Council also encourages the active inclusion of EU climate and energy objectives in EU partnerships with the International Financial Institutions, Development Banks, and other financial institutions as well as within other multilateral organisations and fora, recognising the importance of all indigenous resources and safe and sustainable low greenhouse gas emission technologies in line with the Paris Agreement and the EU Energy Union Strategy.
8. The Council reaffirms the importance of energy diplomacy supporting the efforts to ensure sustainable, competitive, secure, safe, affordable energy in terms of diversification of sources, suppliers and routes, as well as universal access to sustainable energy, following the objectives of the Energy Union in line with its external dimension, and relations with third countries based on a level-playing field. In this respect, guidance through regular high-level engagement remains important. The Council also recognises how the clean energy transition fosters economic opportunities, energy security, climate security, prosperity as well as state and societal resilience, and reiterates the significance of intensifying engagement with non-state actors such as local authorities, businesses, NGOs, civil society, the security community and the scientific community. On nuclear safety the EU remains committed to the promotion and continuous improvement of the highest level of standards in third countries.
9. In particular, the Council stresses the urgency to focus on the potential destabilising effects of climate change and the development implications of energy poverty on resilience, security and migration, and to mainstream its work with all Sustainable Development Goals, in particular with goals 13 on Climate, 7 on Sustainable Energy, 16 on Peace, 6 on Clean Water and Sanitation and 2 on Food Security. From the G7 and G20 to the UN Security Council and other international fora, building on existing initiatives, the EU and the Member States should work towards a broader awareness, analysis and management of climate risks and support EU partners around the world to better understand, integrate, anticipate and manage the impacts of climate change on domestic stability, international security and the displacement of people.

10. The Council emphasises that EU climate and energy diplomacies must continue to encourage and back initiatives in vulnerable countries that are affected by the impacts of climate change as well as from lack of, or uneven access to, safe and sustainable energy. The EU and its Member States are providing financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building to assist developing countries with respect to ensuring that climate change adaptation and mitigation and increased access to sustainable energy are integrated at all relevant levels of development decision-making, in continuation of their existing commitments. The important contributions in terms of climate finance from various sources, including the Green Climate Fund, international financial institutions and multilateral development banks as well as private finance must in this respect be highlighted and maintained, taking into account the objective of the Paris Agreement of making finance flows consistent with low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.
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