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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
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No. Cion doc.: 5644/14 CLIMA 6 ENV 60 ENER 27 IND 24 COMPET 43 MI 69 ECOFIN 65
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Subject: Communication from the Commission on "A policy framework for climate and
energy in the period from 2020 to 2030"
- Policy debate
= Delegations' replies

Delegations will find in the Annex the replies received from DK to the Presidency questions, contained in document 6422/14, for the policy debate on the abovementioned communication, during the Council (Environment) on 3 March 2014.

DENMARK**Question 1:**

Do you consider that the overall approach of the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies provides the appropriate balance between ambition, in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the long-term climate objective, and flexibility for Member States to define the most appropriate ways to transition to a low-carbon economy taking into account their preferences, specific circumstances and capacities?

The 2030-package must include several targets. Denmark supports

- a binding target for the reduction of the EU's internal (domestic) greenhouse gas emissions of at least 40 per cent compared to 1990,
- a binding 30 per cent EU target on renewable energy and
- a binding 2030 energy efficiency objective based on the results of the forthcoming review of the energy efficiency directive.

This would provide a stable, long-term policy framework, which will facilitate much-needed private investments, in particular with regard to energy infrastructure and sustainable generation capacity. Further, it would confirm that the EU maintains a strong and dedicated climate and energy policy to the benefit of our citizens and businesses.

A new governance system must offer an effective and unbureaucratic, long-term framework for supporting renewable energy sources to ensure investor certainty. A governance system should ensure that all member states provide a fair and reliable contribution towards meeting the target.

Denmark will insist on a fair distribution of efforts relating to greenhouse gas emissions among Member States. The criteria used for distributing the required efforts in non-trading sectors should take into account the efforts already made by Member States. For those Member States who have already been assigned with the most challenging reduction targets in the 2020-package, any new reduction efforts will be significantly more burdensome financially.

Finally, Denmark would suggest that it may be worth looking into changing the present architecture and distribution between the ETS and non-ETS sectors and carefully analyze alternative set-ups.

Question 2:

What do you see as the next steps in the discussion on climate and energy policies until 2030, taking into account the need to provide certainty for investors in the longer term and prepare for the international climate negotiations, and which aspects of the proposed framework would as a priority need to be further discussed and defined, for example in relation to efforts at EU and Member State level and in different sectors?

Denmark supports an early agreement on all the overall 2030 targets. Details on how to implement the targets can be decided later – based on thorough discussions and further assessments of impacts.

Denmark finds it important that a decision is taken on all the targets jointly – and that this is not sequenced by setting one target before others. A decision on all targets would provide a stable, long-term policy framework, which will facilitate much-needed private investments, in particular with regard to energy infrastructure and sustainable generation capacity. Further, it would confirm that the EU maintains a strong and dedicated climate and energy policy to the benefit of our citizens and businesses. Early agreement is important if the EU wants to influence the level of ambition in a coming international climate agreement at the COP in Paris in 2015 and as a substep to this, for the EU to play an operational and credible role at the summit in September 2014 called by the UN Secretary General.