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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**NOTE**

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From: Presidency  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Economic Elements of the EU 2030 Energy and Climate Framework

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Delegations will find attached a Presidency note on the economic elements of the EU 2030 energy and climate framework intended to serve as the basis for the exchange of views in the Council (Economic and Financial Affairs) on 11 March 2014.

**PRESIDENCY NOTE ON THE DISCUSSION  
ON ECONOMIC ELEMENTS OF THE EU 2030 ENERGY AND CLIMATE  
FRAMEWORK**

The 2030 Energy and Climate Framework, which was adopted by the Commission on 22 January, seeks to reconcile the targets for overall competitiveness of the European industry and security for sustainable energy supply with the long term targets set for eliminating the effects of climate change. At the same time, the new Framework will reduce uncertainty among investors, governments and citizens and enhance research and innovation in the energy and climate sectors.

As highlighted in the Framework for 2030, the issue of energy prices and their impact on EU competitiveness constitutes a major priority, and is vital for securing existing jobs and supporting actions to create new ones. The consideration of the energy costs both for producers and consumers, in particular for vulnerable consumers, is a priority alongside with energy-saving initiatives and the promotion of energy efficiency.

Finally, the Presidency gives special priority to the finalization of the internal market on energy, which is clearly relevant to all the above issues, and will promote the necessary actions in order to optimize the benefits of the internal market.

The Presidency therefore decided to hold in-depth discussions on the above mentioned subjects, in the relevant Council formations, providing input to the discussions at the European Council of 20-21 March 2014. At its meeting on 11 March, ECOFIN could usefully focus on the economic sides of the policy objectives and actions to be undertaken on the basis of the 2030 Energy and Climate Framework. Following this exchange of views, the Presidency will report back to the President of the European Council.

Delegations can find some of the points for consideration in the letter from President Van Rompuy and the letter from the Economic and Financial Committee Chair that summarizes the results of the preparatory debate in the EFC, EPC and the ECCWG.

Ministers are invited to structure their interventions around the following questions:

1. In the context of the Commission's key climate policy targets set in the 2030 Framework, what actions should be undertaken by Member-States in order to achieve the above targets, whilst at the same time minimizing possible adverse macroeconomic impacts on growth and employment as well as on energy prices and on the competitiveness of industry ?
2. What should be the means of promoting renewable energy in a more market-driven and cost efficient way, minimizing the distortion of the internal market and possible negative impacts on public finances?
3. What are the necessary measures required both at the EU and national levels in order to address the increasing energy price gap between the EU and its major economic competitors?
4. How the completion of the internal energy market could be promoted? What financial instruments (national sources, MMF provisions, the EU budget, EIB funding) could facilitate investments in the energy sector?

Reference documents:

- Letter from the President of the European Council (20.01.2014 - EUCO 15/14)
- Letter from the EFC President (28.02.2014 - 7169/14 + COR 1)