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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
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Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 for a resilient Energy Union and to meet commitments under the Paris Agreement and amending Regulation No 525/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on a mechanism for monitoring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions and other information relevant to climate change (First reading) - General approach = Delegations' contributions
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With a view to the Council (Environment) on 13 October 2017, delegations will find in the Annex a proposal from Austria.

AUSTRIA**Proposal on Article 7 (LULUCF flexibility)**

Art. 7 (1a new)

1a. In case less than 280 million net removals have been taken into account under paragraph 1, the maximum amount set in Annex III shall be raised up to 6% of annual emissions from agriculture in the period 2008 to 2012 for the Member States with a lower maximum amount, ensuring that total net removals taken into account for compliance under Article 9 of this Regulation do not exceed 280 Mio.

Justification:

- This proposal introduces an element which allows a more balanced approach in sharing the LULUCF flexibility of max. 280 Mio. net removals among MS;
- The maximum flexibility of 280 Mio. net removals over the period 2021-2030 remains unchanged;
- The maximum limits of MS remain unchanged;
- MS with a lower than average maximum limit are allowed to raise their limit up to 6%, only if less than 280 Mio. net removals are used by the EU;
However, for those MS the national limit would still be based on a lower percentage than the limits for all other MS;
- All MS would still need to comply with the provisions of Art. 7 to be able to make use of the LULUCF flexibility.

Comparison between EC proposal and AT proposal

	EC proposal		Maximum effects of the proposal (in bold)	
	annual limit as % of agriculture emissions	Total limit of LULUCF net removals	annual limit as % of agriculture emissions	Total limit of LULUCF net removals
IE	15%	-26.8	15%	-26.8
LT	15%	-6.5	15%	-6.5
DK	15%	-14.6	15%	-14.6
LV	15%	-3.1	15%	-3.1
RO	7.5%	-13.2	7.5%	-13.2
BG	7.5%	-4.1	7.5%	-4.1
FR	7.5%	-58.2	7.5%	-58.2
EE	7.5%	-0.9	7.5%	-0.9
FI	7.5%	-4.5	7.5%	-4.5
ES	7.5%	-29.1	7.5%	-29.1
SE	7.5%	-4.9	7.5%	-4.9
CY	7.5%	-0.6	7.5%	-0.6
EL	7.5%	-6.7	7.5%	-6.7
PT	7.5%	-5.2	7.5%	-5.2
NL	7.5%	-13.4	7.5%	-13.4
SI	7.5%	-1.3	7.5%	-1.3
PL	7.5%	-21.7	7.5%	-21.7
HU	3.75%	-2.1	up to 6%	-3,4
SK	3.75%	-1.2		-1,9
UK	3.75%	-17.8		-28,5
HR	3.75%	-0.9		-1,4
AT	3.75%	-2.5		-4
BE	3.75%	-3.8		-6,1
DE	3.75%	-22.3		-35,7
CZ	3.75%	-2.6		-4,2
IT	3.75%	-11.5		-18,4
MT	3.75%	-0.03		-0,05
LU	3.75%	-0.25		-0,4