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From: General Secretariat of the Council
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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 DE to the Presidency questions, contained in document 10180/14, for the policy debate on the abovementioned proposal in the Council (Environment) on 12 June 2014.

Germany

We definitely want to comply with the timeframe adopted by the European Council in March and support the process foreseen in the “Roadmap” for preparing the final decision on the 2030 climate and energy framework in the October European Council meeting.

The current discussions on improving security of energy supply are closely connected to the 2030 climate and energy framework. In the October Council meeting we should take a joint decision on all three objectives of the 2030 framework (climate, renewables, energy efficiency) and on measures for improving energy security.

The European Council should also make it clear that in the context of an international climate agreement the EU is prepared to raise its level of ambition on climate action above a domestic target of at least 40% in conjunction with a contribution from international mitigation certificates.

It is furthermore important that the EU is already able to send the first positive signals at the UN Secretary-General's climate summit in September 2014. At its June meeting, the European Council should therefore stress that it welcomes the Commission proposal on the 2030 framework as a basis for a decision in October.

1) Which sectors, based on your national circumstances, have significant potential to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the EU in the 2030 perspective, or pose particular challenges in this regard? How could their specificities be taken into account in the climate and energy policies after 2020?

We see the greatest potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the fields of energy generation and energy consumption.

In order to tap this potential we support a set of three binding targets for climate change mitigation, renewables and energy efficiency, and we advocate the swift and sustained strengthening of the EU Emissions Trading System. Ambitious targets and policy instruments in particular for renewable energies and energy efficiency help to lower greenhouse gas emissions in highly relevant sectors such as electricity generation and buildings.

2) *What kind of EU policies and tools can contribute to addressing the investment needs of the 2030 climate and energy framework?*

Clear targets create well-directed political incentives which help overcome market barriers and give investors planning certainty.

That is why besides a domestic greenhouse gas reduction target of at least 40% we support a binding renewable energy target of at least 30% and a binding energy efficiency target. The level of the efficiency target should be based on the available economic potential. We ask the Commission to promptly table a proposal for a 2030 energy efficiency target and to submit to member states for review measures for preventing carbon leakage so that a decision can be taken in the European Council in October.

The Commission's Impact Assessment clearly shows that much of the EU's infrastructure and energy generation capacities will have to be modernised over the coming years. Investments in this area are thus necessary in any event, but with ambitious targets we can provide the right impetus to use them to build a climate-friendly economy. Investments in energy-intensive industries require sufficiently reliable framework conditions.

To trigger the additional investments necessary for the 2030 framework we need adequate funding instruments at EU level.