



Council of the
European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: The future of the European Nuclear Energy Forum and the position of V4 countries
- Information from the Slovak delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Slovak delegation.

The future of the European Nuclear Energy Forum and the position of V4 countries

Referring to the future of the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF) and the Commission's view that it should be incorporated into the broader Berlin Forum the Slovakia wishes to inform the Energy Council about its position on this initiative.

During the last nine meetings, the ENEF gave the opportunity to transparently discuss the challenges associated with the use of nuclear energy. Outcomes of the working groups contributed to a wide range of analysis of nuclear energy related issues including economics, safety or transparency. During last nine years ENEF became a specific platform and has its justification among the energy forums and has been successfully fulfilling its goals and delivering outstanding results.

We took note of the Commission view that the ENEF format has to be changed and that it should be included into the broader Berlin Forum. Yet, due to above mentioned reasons we have some reservation to the suggested proposal. We are convinced that nuclear energy as a huge contributor to the EU's decarbonisation objectives and energy security deserves an individual forum under which nuclear-related topics and research can be performed and discussed in a transparent and equitable manner.

Given its importance, we admit that the ENEF's outcomes should be better communicated and its workflow should be streamlined in order to be maximally effective. That is why together with our partners in the EU "nuclear-minded countries", we are working on defining the context of the next meetings in order to reflect on how to increase the visibility and how to participate in the broadened energy dialogue. We believe that the ENEF should reflect the current energy challenges and the changing reality in the area of nuclear energy utilisation. Therefore, we are of opinion, that it is appropriate to keep the recent format of organisation of the ENEF successively in Bratislava and Prague. Nuclear energy, including all specific issues and open questions, deserves to be discussed in the framework of a unique platform. Thus we suggest that the General ENEF Plenary Meeting conclusions and specific working groups' outcomes could be regularly presented at this Berlin forum. However, merging these two forums should be avoided.