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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Second Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Renewable Energies of
the Western Mediterranean Dialogue (Dialogue 5+5) (Lisbon, 3 March
2015)
- Information from the Portuguese delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Portuguese delegation on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Environment Council meeting on 6 March 2015.

**2nd Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Renewable Energies of the Western
Mediterranean Dialogue (Dialogue 5+5)**

(Lisbon, 3 March 2015)

The 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Renewable Energies of the Western Mediterranean Dialogue (Dialogue 5+5)¹ will take place in Lisbon, on the 3rd of March 2015.

With the holding of the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Convention at the end of 2015 the Ministers responsible for environment and energy of the ten countries of the Dialogue 5+5 will have the opportunity to exchange views and perspectives on two main issues: the road to Paris – steps towards an ambitious 2015 agreement - and cooperation in the field of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

With just 10 months left until the Paris COP, the pace will have to be stepped up , and countries will have to work towards an ambitious agreement to meet the scale of the climate change challenge.

Within this context, the Ministers assembled in Lisbon will have the opportunity to discuss the state of play as regards the preparation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and to share experiences in developing policies on climate change. The meeting also aims to contribute to enhancing cooperation between countries in the preparations for Paris.

Within this framework, the energy sector is at the heart of the highest political agendas due, inter alia, to the urgent need to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The high dependency on non-renewable energy sources, together with major changes on the global energy market, are issues that have to be taken into account in the political agendas. During the meeting, therefore, Ministers will have the chance to promote an exchange of views on the state of the art of cooperation in the field of renewable energies and energy efficiency and to identify opportunities for further cooperation in order to improve regional performance in these fields.

¹ The Western Mediterranean Dialogue, commonly referred to as 5+5 Dialogue, was officially launched in Rome in 1990 as an informal sub-regional forum of like-minded countries, geographically situated on the western rim of the Euro-Mediterranean littoral and comprising of Algeria, France, Italy, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia.

In our opinion, this meeting can be seen as an opportunity to contribute to our internal EU debate on the preparation of the road to Paris and to our current work on the construction of the Energy Union.

For these reasons, Portugal will share with the Energy and Environment Council the results of the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Environment and Renewable Energies of the 5+5 Dialogue.