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Subject: EU Energy Security - recent developments and the next steps
- Presidency Discussion Paper

With a view to the Working Party on Energy on 12 May 2015, delegations will find in the Annex information from the Presidency on the abovementioned subject.

EU Energy Security – recent developments and the next steps

Presidency Discussion paper

In the last decade on several occasions the issue of EU energy security has become central to the EU energy policy agenda. After each crisis the EU has responded with a strong determination to implement additional measures to increase security. These measures have helped to strengthen EU energy security and improve the ability of the EU to withstand possible energy supply disruptions.

During the last year a lot has been done in this regard - additional steps were made and new measures developed. The **European Energy Security Strategy** published by the Commission on July 2, 2014 has formulated 8 key pillars which in the short and long term should improve the EU energy security.

In the short term the EU carried out energy security Stress Tests. Those demonstrated shortfalls in infrastructure and insufficient coordination of national security strategies. The lessons learned allowed to put forward short and medium term recommendations for improving energy security.

Regarding the long term measures the European Energy Security Strategy proposed a holistic approach towards the need to increase energy efficiency, to increase energy production in the EU and diversify supply routes and sources, to complete the internal market also by building the missing infrastructure, by speaking with one voice within the external energy policy and strengthening emergency and solidarity mechanisms.

These issues were taken up by the European Council in October 23/24, 2014. During the meeting a full recognition of the need for additional measures for energy security took place. Heads of state or government emphasised the need to implement the critical infrastructure projects and facilitate it also through streamlined administrative procedures. They also underlined the need to make full use of the decision regarding intergovernmental agreements, to strengthen Energy Community and use the foreign policy instruments to convey consistent messages.

In the **Energy Union Strategy**, the Commission underlined the importance of EU energy security as one of the five key dimensions. The Commission explained that in Energy Union Member States see that they depend on each other to deliver secure energy to their citizens, based on true solidarity and trust, and of an Energy Union that speaks with one voice in global affairs.

Additionally, 15 action points were proposed covering specific measures for implementation of the Energy Union including for improving energy security¹. Reflecting on those, the heads of state or government at the **European Council** meeting of March 19/20, 2015 underlined – firstly, the need to reinforce the legislative framework for the security of supply for electricity and gas; secondly, to ensure a full compliance with EU law of all agreements related to the buying of gas from external suppliers; thirdly, assess options for voluntary demand aggregation mechanisms.

While these political decisions were developed the 2014/2015 winter has passed. Therefore, it is the appropriate moment for practical implementation of some measures aimed at strengthening energy security, including security of supply, and further reflections on ideas that have been expressed during previous political discussions.

Consequently, the Presidency would like to ask the delegations to respond to the following questions:

- 1) **What has been achieved in practical terms regarding strengthening the energy security situation in Europe? Are there any opportunities that have been missed?**
- 2) **What should be the next steps regarding the issues underlined by the March **European Council**? Which aspects should be developed as a matter of priority?**

¹ For example:

Action 2: The EU needs to diversify its supply of gas and make it more resilient to supply disruptions.

Action 3: Intergovernmental agreements should comply fully with EU legislation and be more transparent.

Action 4: The right infrastructure is a precondition for completing the energy market, integrating renewables and security of supply.