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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: External energy relations
(i) Trilateral Ukraine-Russia-EU
(ii) Energy Community
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached an information note on the above from the Commission.

TTE (Energy) Council on 8 June 2015

Information note from the Commission

AOB on "External energy relations"

(i) Trilateral Ukraine-Russia-EU

The European Commission will update the TTE-Energy Council on progress regarding external aspects of Energy Security, on the basis of its Communication on a European Energy Security Strategy¹ of 28 May 2014 and in particular on the trilateral negotiations with the Russian Federation and Ukraine on a follow up to the Winter Package on gas supplies to Ukraine.

The Commission hopes that a follow-up to the Winter Package can be swiftly agreed which, in the Commission's view, is essential to provide a stable framework for gas supplies to Ukraine, and therefore for reliable gas transit to Europe, until the underlying dispute on the contracts between Naftogaz and Gazprom are settled by a decision of the Stockholm Arbitration Court, expected not before June 2016.

(ii) Energy Community

The Energy Community contributes to strengthening trust and cooperation between governments and industries from the EU Member States, the states of the Balkan, Ukraine and Moldova, and fosters cooperation across Europe in the energy matters. By working closely with their counterparts, the Energy Community members learn from each other and improve thereby their performance on the ground of the Energy Community Treaty requirements. Through examples of good practice, the members benefit from the experiences of others and the practices in the EU.

¹ OM (2014) 330

The Commission presentation will focus in particular on latest developments in process to strengthen the Energy Community in view of the Tirana ministerial meeting in October 2015. They include reforms of the functioning of existing institutions, the revision of the dispute settlement regime, preparation of political consensus on a future legislative act on security of supply for gas as well as Commission's proposals on energy infrastructure and energy efficiency.
