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#### NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Investment Plan for Europe - an opportunity for environmental and climate related projects
	- Information from the Commission

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Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Commission on the above subject, which will be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Environment Council meeting on 15 June 2015.

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**Investment Plan for Europe – an opportunity for environmental and climate related projects****- Information from the Commission -**

In December 2014, the Commission launched the Investment Plan that aims at addressing the need to revive investment in the EU. The investment plan is intended to complement currently available instruments by mobilising additional investments. The Commission proposal consists of three strands: Strand 1) "financial" (by establishing the European Fund for Strategic Investment that will mobilise finance for projects with a higher risk profile, thereby maximising the impact of public spending and unlocking private investments and better use of existing EU instruments; Strand 2) "information" (by creating a transparent forward-looking pipeline of European investment projects (the EU Investment Project Portal, or IPP) as an information tool to potential investors; and the European Investment Advisory Hub to strengthen Europe's investment and business environment by enhancing the capacity of public and private actors to structure financially good projects and bring them to maturity); and Strand 3) "regulatory" (aiming at improving the regulatory environment and removing barriers to investment).

The EU already provides funding for a broad range of environmental and climate related projects through a number of existing instruments, e.g. the European Structural Investment Funds, Life, EIB loans and the Natural Capital Financing Facility. The EU has agreed to spend at least 20% of its budget for 2014-2020 on climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

The Investment Plan offers three additional opportunities to increase support for environmental, resource efficient and climate related projects:

- Firstly, additional investments will become possible once EFSI is up and running after the Summer (Strand 1).
- Secondly, the visibility of investment opportunities could increase with project promoters able to share their investment projects with potential investors through their inclusion in the IPP (Strand 2); and,

- Thirdly, the project pipeline of green investment could be strengthened through the wide range of advisory services (technical assistance) for identifying, preparing and implementing projects, access to finance/the use of complex financial instruments, and capacity building (also under Strand 2).

The Commission and Member States need to work together to prepare investment projects that are compatible with EU law and will help to achieve sustainable development objectives, while at the same time creating business opportunities to modernise our economies.

The Commission intends to inform Ministers of the different possibilities to promote green investments that will become available once the Regulation on European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) enters into force, in order to jointly raise awareness amongst stakeholders and to provide advice on how to best support such investments.

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