



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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PRESS RELEASE

3282nd Council meeting

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy

Brussels, 12 December 2013

President **Jaroslav Neverovič**
Minister for Energy of Lithuania

P R E S S

Main results of the Council

Internal energy market

The Council endorsed a Council report on the progress on the completion of the EU internal energy market in the follow-up to the European Council of 22 May 2013.

External dimension of EU energy policy

The Council endorsed a Council report on the review of developments on the external dimension of EU energy policy, in the follow-up to the European Council of 22 May 2013.

Indirect land-use change

The Council examined a presidency compromise text on the draft directive on indirect land-use change (ILUC) amending the fuel quality and renewable energy directives. However, there are still some outstanding issues and it was not possible to reach a political agreement at this stage. Therefore, the Council's preparatory bodies have been invited to work further on the proposal, with a view to allowing for a political agreement to be reached in the future.

CONTENTS¹

PARTICIPANTS.....	4
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ITEMS DEBATED

Indirect land-use change	6
Internal energy market	6
External dimension of the EU energy policy	7
Other business	9
Notification of investment projects in energy infrastructure	9
Work programme of the incoming presidency	9
Recent developments in the nuclear energy field	9

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED*TRADE POLICY*

– Anti-dumping measures.....	10
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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

PARTICIPANTS

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Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade

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Finland:

Mr Jan VAPAAVUORI

Minister for Economic Affairs

Sweden:

Mr Jan Roland OLSSON

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United Kingdom:

Mr Edward DAVEY

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

.....

Commission:

Mr Günther OETTINGER

Member

Ms Connie HEDEGAARD

Member

ITEMS DEBATED

Indirect land-use change

The Council examined a presidency compromise text ([16546/13](#)) on the draft directive on indirect land-use change (ILUC) amending the fuel quality (98/70/EC) and renewable energy (2009/28/EC) directives. However, there are still some outstanding issues and it was not possible to reach a political agreement at this stage. Therefore, the Council's preparatory bodies have been invited to work further on the proposal, with a view to allowing for a political agreement to be reached in the future.

Background

The aim of the proposed directive is to start a transition to biofuels that deliver substantial greenhouse gas savings when also estimated indirect land-use change emissions are reported, while existing investments should be protected.

The renewable energy directive established mandatory targets to be achieved by 2020 for a 20% overall share of renewable energy in the EU and a 10% share for renewable energy in the transport sector. At the same time, an amendment to the fuel quality directive introduced a mandatory target to achieve by 2020 a 6% reduction in the greenhouse gas intensity of fuels used in road transport and non-road mobile machinery.

When these directives were adopted, the European Parliament and the Council asked the Commission to review the negative effects on greenhouse gas savings which might result from the conversion of land and, if need be, to present a legislative proposal. The draft directive was presented by the Commission in October 2012 ([15189/12](#)).

The European Parliament adopted its first reading position on 11 September 2013.

Internal energy market

The Council endorsed a Council report ([17755/13](#)) on the progress on the completion of the EU internal energy market in the follow-up to the [European Council of 22 May 2013](#). Furthermore, the Commission briefed ministers on the completion of the EU internal energy market.

The European Union internal energy market, to be completed by 2014, will make a significant contribution to all three pillars of the EU's energy policy - sustainability, competitiveness and security of supply - and to the EU's jobs and growth agenda. It will also contribute to the EU's energy and climate targets, to the transition to a low-carbon economy, to the strengthening of the Union's external energy policy and to the reduction of the Union's external dependency.

The Council report endorsed by ministers covers the following parts: completing the internal energy market and ending energy isolation; ensuring investments; and diversification, energy efficiency and pricing. In its conclusions it identifies three major priorities for further efforts: harmonisation through the implementation of the third energy package; development of energy infrastructure with no delay; and effective application and enforcement of EU rules regarding market integration and energy efficiency, and striving for a level playing field for companies operating within the EU. The report will be forwarded to the [European Council](#).

The Council report is based on the input provided by the Commission and member states. The topic was also discussed at the informal meeting of energy ministers in Vilnius on 19-20 September.

The EU internal energy market-related topics will be discussed next year. The [European Council](#) intends to discuss energy prices and costs in February 2014 in the context of the scheduled discussion on industrial competitiveness and policy and policy options for the 2030 framework for energy and climate, on the basis of the Commission's proposals, in March 2014. The Commission will present its report on the progress in completing the internal energy market in early 2014.

On 7 June 2013, the TTE (Energy) Council adopted conclusions ([9809/13](#)) on the completion of the internal energy market.

External dimension of the EU energy policy

The Council endorsed a Council report ([17756/13](#)) on the review of developments on the external dimension of the EU energy policy, in the follow-up to the European Council of 22 May 2013. In addition, the presidency and the Commission briefed ministers on recent developments in the field of external energy relations.

The Council report covers the following topics: developments in the global energy landscape since 2011, progress and achievements of the EU external energy policy since 2011 and recommendations for further strengthening and improving the EU external energy policy. It states that the Commission, the Council and member states should continue their efforts in the further development of the EU's external energy policy, including from a strategic perspective, on the basis of the 2011 conclusions and taking due account of the recommendations set out in the report. The Council is invited to return to this issue before the end of 2016.

The report was drawn up with the input of member states and the Commission. The topic was also discussed at the informal meeting of energy ministers in Vilnius on 19-20 September.

The [May European Council](#) instructed the Council to "follow up on its conclusions of November 2011 and review developments regarding EU external energy policy" before the end of 2013. In September 2013 the Commission presented its report "Implementation of the Communication on security of energy supply and international cooperation and of the Energy Council conclusions of November 2013" ([13642/13](#)). The [Council conclusions of November 2011](#) address the strengthening of the coordination of the external dimension of EU energy policy and EU cooperation with third countries (in particular multilateral instruments, infrastructures, market integration and global safety and security), the deepening of energy partnerships and support for developing economies.

Furthermore, the Council was briefed by the presidency and the Commission on events and developments in international relations that have taken place during the Lithuanian presidency, or are due to take place soon.

The briefing covered, amongst other issues, the International Energy Agency ministerial meeting (Paris, 19-20 November), the tenth meeting of the EU-OPEC Energy Dialogue (Vienna, 11 November), the 11th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community (Belgrade, 24 October), the 24th meeting of the Energy Charter Conference (Nicosia, 5-6 December), the 16th EU-China Summit (Beijing, 21 November) and EU-Russia energy relations.

Other business

Notification of investment projects in energy infrastructure

The presidency briefed the Council on the first-reading agreement reached with the European Parliament on the regulation concerning the notification of investment projects in energy infrastructure ([16392/13](#)).

The Council's Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed the agreement on 23 October 2013. For more details see [press release](#).

Work programme of the incoming presidency

The Greek delegation presented the incoming presidency's work programme for the energy sector ([16838/13](#)). It will focus in particular on the 2014 deadline set for completing the EU internal energy market, the 2015 deadline by which no member state should remain isolated from Europe's networks and the 2015 international climate change agreement. The Greek presidency will also address, inter alia, the drivers of energy prices and costs, the protection of vulnerable consumers, energy poverty as well as competitiveness of the overall energy sector.

The informal ministers' meeting will take place on 15-16 May 2014 and the TTE (Energy) Council on 4 March 2014 in Brussels and on 12 June 2014 in Luxembourg.

Recent developments in the nuclear energy field

The Council was briefed on recent developments in the nuclear energy field ([16833/13](#)). The briefing included information on stress tests, following the European Council's call for them in 2011, and on the progress made at working party level on the proposal for a directive amending directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

TRADE POLICY

Anti-dumping measures

– *iron or steel ropes and cables - Russia*

The Council repealed the anti-dumping measures on imports of certain iron or steel ropes and cables originating in Russia, following an expiry review pursuant to regulation 1225/2009 (the EU's "basic anti-dumping regulation") ([16733/13](#)).

– *peroxosulphates (persulphates) - China*

The Council imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of peroxosulphates (persulphates) originating in China following an expiry review pursuant to regulation 1225/2009 ([16740/13](#)).
