



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 24 January 2014

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NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Delegations
Subject:	Vulnerable consumers - Exchange of views

Following the exchange of views on vulnerable consumers, held at the Energy Working Party on 14 January on the basis of the London Forum Guidance document on Vulnerable Consumers, delegations are invited, by **12 February** cob, to provide written comments on the guidance document including answers to the following questions:

- 1. With reference to Member States' national policies to protect consumers in vulnerable situations, could you identify the factors (indicators of energy poverty, population, disposable income spent on energy costs etc.) being essential for your definition and/or description of vulnerable consumers? Could you also indicate the proportion of the overall population vulnerable consumers represent?*
- 2. Describe your national measures available to protect vulnerable consumers. Describe the proportion between any short term and long term measures.*
- 3. Would delegations concur with the recommendations described in Chapter 5 of the above guidance document on vulnerable consumers?*

The Presidency would also like to reiterate that some aspects on vulnerable consumers will be part of the Council conclusions on Energy prices and Competitiveness, to be adopted at the TTE (Energy) Council on 13 June 2014. The tentative timetable in annex sets out the main steps in the run up to the June Council.

TIMETABLE**draft Council Conclusions on Energy prices, Vulnerable consumers and Competitiveness**

14 January	– Vulnerable consumers / exchange of views
22 January	– Communication on Energy Prices and Competitiveness – circulation of Timetable
28 January	EWP: presentation of Communication and preliminary comments/questions on the Communication
12 February	deadline for written comments on the Communication
+/-20 February	circulation of conclusions outline
25 February	EWP: presentation of conclusions outline / preliminary reactions
4 March	TTE (Energy) Council - policy debate on Energy prices and competitiveness
10 March	deadline for written comments on outline
20-21 March	European Council
+/-24 March	circulation of 1st draft conclusions
1 April	EWP: examination of 1st draft conclusions
7 April	deadline for written comments on 1st draft conclusions
+/-11 April	circulation of 2nd draft conclusions
22 April	EWP: examination of 2nd draft conclusions
5 May	deadline for written comments on 2nd draft conclusions
+/-12 May	circulation of 3rd draft conclusions
20 May	EWP: examination of 3rd draft conclusions
21 May	deadline for written comments on 3rd draft conclusions
+/-23 May	circulation of 4th draft conclusions
27 May	EWP: finalisation of draft conclusions
4 June	Coreper
13 June	TTE (Energy) Council