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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE
COUNCIL amending Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency (**first
reading**)
- Adoption of the legislative act
- Statements

Statement by Belgium

Having voted against does not detract Belgium from being a strong advocate for a sustainable energy and climate policy as laid down in the Council Conclusions of October 2014 and contained in the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, Belgium subscribes fully to the principle of energy efficiency.

The ambitious goal set out in the submitted proposal, more specifically Article 7, presents Belgium nonetheless with an unreachable challenge to achieve this in a cost efficient manner.

Notwithstanding, Belgium will continue to deliver constructive contributions to the European energy efficiency goal.

Statement by Croatia

The Republic of Croatia expresses its concerns regarding the provisions of Article 7 and the values of the actual annual savings in the total energy consumption, with the target being set at 0.8 %. The Republic of Croatia could, in accordance with its previously expressed positions agree to support a compromise solution with a maximum 0.7 %.

Although the implementation of energy efficiency measures in all sectors will contribute considerably to the decrease in EU energy consumption, the value of actual annual savings in the total energy consumption of 0.8 % is not economically viable and could have a significant negative economic impact on the Republic of Croatia. Therefore, the Republic of Croatia will abstain when the final compromise text on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2012/27/EU will be adopted.

Statement by the Czech Republic

Having voted against does not deter the Czech Republic from remaining fully committed to the principles of energy efficiency, decarbonisation and sustainable energy policy. Nonetheless, in our view, the ambitious obligation set out in the revised Article 7 represents a great challenge for the Czech Republic. The revised obligation will require a fundamental change in the energy efficiency policy framework and it could eventually be almost impossible to reach in a cost efficient manner.

The Czech Republic remains devoted to the implementation of successful energy efficiency policies and will strive to contribute to the Union energy efficiency goal.

Statement by Portugal

Despite of its strong commitment with the principle of energy efficiency first, Portugal reaffirms the concerns raised at earlier stages of the negotiation regarding the extremely high level of effort associated to the Article 7 of the Directive.