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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Any other business
2019 election of the next IRENA General Director - Italian candidate Dr.
Francesco La Camera
- Information from the Italian delegation

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Italian delegation.

2019 election of the next IRENA General Director - Italian candidate Dr. Francesco La Camera

Information by the Italian delegation

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is the major global organization as per the promotion of renewable energies, with a membership of 159 countries, 24 countries in accession and around 150 observers, including companies, NGOs, specialized national agencies and the like. All EU Member States are part of IRENA, including the EU itself, aside from Austria, which is still in the accession phase.

The mandate of the current Director General, the Kenyan Adnan Amin, will expire in the first part of 2019. The selection of the new DG has been going on since last April. Out of the initial 130 candidates, on the 15th of November the IRENA Council has eventually selected the Italian candidate Francesco La Camera (currently Director General for Sustainable Development and Relations with International Organizations and the EU, at the Italian Ministry of Environment), and the Colombian candidate, German Arce Zapata (former Minister of Mines and Energy).

The 9th IRENA Assembly on 11-13 January 2019 in Abu Dhabi will be called to select the new DG, by a majority of 2/3 of participating members.

As Dr. La Camera is the only candidate from the EU, we deem necessary that the EU votes at the assembly converge on him.

Indeed, the Italian candidate reflects Italy's commitment in the fields of renewable energies also at EU level. Italy's renewable energy component in the national energy mix is already above the EU targets set for 2020 and we have been in favour of the new "Clean Energy package" in order to step up the Union commitments towards an even more sustainable energy model.

Within IRENA, Italy has been among the founding Countries and, currently, we are the eight contributor. The EU as a whole contributes to around 35% of the Agency's budget.

In line with the EU attention to developing renewable sources, Dr. La Camera aims at further strengthening the role of IRENA towards tangible actions and results by increasing the Agency's professionalism and resources; by relaunching the collaboration with the private sector; by promoting the cooperation with other international energy agencies; by increasing IRENA visibility and capacity of engagement with all Countries.

Dr. La Camera will also look at strengthening the Agency's role in providing "capacity building" and assistance to set up regulatory frameworks at national level, and at seeking innovative sources of financing.

Thanks to its multi-decennial experience, Dr. La Camera may avail himself of a very extensive network of relations and consolidated contacts both at bilateral and multilateral levels, including from the UN agencies. Under Dr. La Camera's guidance, IRENA shall cooperate with those agencies in order to develop partnerships for initiatives and projects whose costs may be financed by IRENA partners themselves.

The Italian candidate, although envisaging a pro-active and managerial role for IRENA Director General, will make sure that IRENA will remain a members' led agency, whose membership shall give the political impulse and guidance to the Agency itself.