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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Conference on carbon pricing and aviation taxes (The Hague, 20 - 21 June 2019)
– Information from the Netherlands delegation

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Netherlands delegation on the above subject, to be dealt with under 'Any other business' at the Council (Environment) meeting on 26 June 2019.

Conference on carbon pricing and aviation taxes

(The Hague, 20 - 21 June 2019)

- Information from the Netherlands delegation -

On 20 and 21 June 2019 the Netherlands will host a high-level conference on carbon pricing and aviation taxes, as announced to ECOFIN on 12 February 2019 and further discussed in the Environment Council in March and TTE (Transport) Council in June.

The Netherlands is convinced that the EU should have a leading role in discussing and examining the possibilities for taxing aviation and should take action where possible. A coordinated European approach, instead of several different unilateral taxes, could prevent a shift in air passengers to neighbouring countries, have less negative economic effects and counter the fragmentation and disruption of the internal market.

Besides providing discussion on taxing aviation, the conference explores opportunities for improving carbon pricing in the EU. The Netherlands has recently presented a bill to set a carbon price floor for electricity production as of 2020, in order to stimulate companies to become more sustainable and take into account carbon dioxide emissions in their investments. The price will complement the EU ETS and in this way guarantee a minimum price for CO₂-emissions. For the Netherlands, a coordinated approach within the EU or together with neighbouring countries would be the preferred approach, as it mitigates risks to the security of supply and prevents the increase in emissions in neighbouring countries. With a unilateral introduction and through organising this conference, the Netherlands hopes to stimulate the EU and neighbouring countries to jointly work on the implementation of a carbon price floor at EU or regional level.

The high-level conference provides for opportunities for discussion on these important issues, with regard to the international character of aviation and climate change. Political representatives and experts from many member states will be present as well as officials from the European Commission. If you want to participate in the conference, you can register at <https://www.aviatax2019.nl>. Here, you can also find information on the programme and the link to the livestream.