



Council of the
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Letter of Austria and supporting Member States about IPCEI improvements
Information from the Austrian delegation

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Austrian delegation to the Competitiveness Council with a view to its meeting on 1 December 2022.

Information Note***Letter of Austria and supporting Member States about IPCEI improvements******Information by the AT Delegation***

In a joint letter, the signatory member states ask the European Commission to re-establish a forum for the state aid framework of Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) as early as the beginning of 2023. By now, many member states have already joined several IPCEI initiatives. Besides, there are discussions on potential further IPCEIs, i.e. in the field of renewable energy technologies. Even if the signatory member states also acknowledge certain progress regarding the implementation, there is still room for improvement, particularly regarding transparency, speed and efficiency.

The proposed forum (working title: Joint European Forum for IPCEI) ought to establish a regular exchange of all member states on best practices and work on harmonizing rules across member states and IPCEI initiatives which will help significantly improve and accelerate operational implementation. Furthermore, this forum should start an open process to identify new priority fields for IPCEI (based on strategic importance, market failure and European added value) and thus increase transparency and the necessary openness for all member states. The results of this process and planned IPCEI activities should then be released and shared with the broader public and interested industry, e.g. through a jointly assembled informative website. Finally, member states and the European Commission should work on setting up joint scientific guidance and bundling of evaluation schemes.