



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 28 November 2019
(OR. en)

14236/19

ENER 505

INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Any other business Work programme of the incoming Presidency - Information from the Croatian delegation

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

Europe that connects

From 1 January to 30 June 2020, Croatia will take over the presidency of the Council of the European Union. In line with the guidelines set by the Council's New Strategic Agenda 2019–2024 and the Croatian priorities and points of reference, in accordance with the Trio programme of Romania, Finland and Croatia and under the motto "*A strong Europe in a world of challenges*", Croatia is preparing a detailed six-month presidency agenda based on four priorities: a Europe that is developing, a Europe that connects, a Europe that protects and an influential Europe.

Through the priority *A Europe that connects*, the Croatian Presidency will encourage the integration of the energy market through further establishment and implementation of the Energy Union. In addition, the Croatian Presidency will focus on strengthening the process of energy security through infrastructure and diversification, including renewable and low-carbon energy sources. Particular focus will be placed on the promotion of the role and potential of islands in the clean energy transition.

The Croatian presidency will focus on the continuation of the work on the establishment and implementation of the Energy Union, as the backbone of the common European energy policy. Special attention will be given to the realisation of activities related to the five pillars of the Energy Union.

Upcoming activities, aimed at further delivery of the Energy Union, will be focused on the transposition of the legislative files from the Clean Energy package into the Member States national legislations. In addition, the Croatian presidency intends to focus on the future gas markets and initiate discussions on this subject. Also, the process after the submission of the final National Energy and Climate Plans will be important, along with their iterative nature.

As Europe is striving towards climate neutrality, in view of the overall discussions regarding EU's low-carbon transition and the reaching of climate neutrality, activities and measures related to emission reduction will also be important in the energy sector. In this context, it will be necessary to take into account the process of energy transition and the need for regional added value, through a more prominent role of specific areas, such as EU islands, or through regional cooperation aimed at improving the security of supply for certain parts of the EU.

The Croatian presidency will therefore look further into regional needs when it comes to the clean energy transition and endeavour to provide solutions for specific areas generating electricity at the point of consumption, for which the transition to renewable energy sources would mean less investment into infrastructure and a greater system security. In this context, the Presidency will place particular emphasis on the energy transition of islands and will advocate a long-term framework as a follow up of the Political Declaration on Clean Energy for EU Islands (Valletta Declaration). The Declaration has already recognised the significant potential of islands to be the architects of their own energy transition and the potential of their contribution to a sustainable, low-carbon development of the EU.