



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 31 May 2021
(OR. en)

9282/21

ENER 247
RECH 278
IND 153
CLIMA 128

INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: Any other business
Joint political declaration of the Penta-countries affirming their commitment to strengthen their cooperation on hydrogen
- Information from the Belgian delegation

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Belgian delegation in view of the TTE (Energy) Council on 11 June 2021.

Joint political declaration of the Penta-countries affirming their commitment to strengthen their cooperation on hydrogen

In order to decarbonize the European energy sector, the role of molecules has to be taken into account in the future energy system. In this regard, hydrogen is high on the agenda everywhere. This challenge is also taken up in the framework of the Pentalateral Energy Forum. This is part of the work towards a common Penta 2050 vision on an integrated electricity system. For Europe to become the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, such visions and intensive exchanges in all corners of the EU are needed.

During the last ministerial meeting in early February, it was agreed among others to prioritize the implementation of the Penta Political Declaration on hydrogen from May 2020. This has now been worked out.

During the informal video conference of energy ministers on 22 April 2021, an announcement on this joint position paper and some main points of attention were already made, namely the following:

- 1. While national hydrogen strategies are being established and implemented, the shared ambitions by the Penta Member States towards a sustainable internal market for hydrogen requires an early regulatory framework which lays down the foundation on which national and regional markets may gradually evolve into an integrated European market.*
- 2. We emphasize the importance of common key regulatory principles, while simultaneously acknowledging that national priorities may vary in the early stages towards a hydrogen economy.*
- 3. As the hydrogen system matures and develops over time into an integrated part of the internal energy market, a new generation of regulation is required which is not only aimed at the further promotion of the internal market for hydrogen, but also fully embraces systems integration and its benefits to cost-effective decarbonization.*

During this formal TTE of the Ministers of Energy on 11 June, the joint position paper will be in the process of being signed, and for this reason the Belgian Minister for energy and current President of the Pentalateral Energy Forum will present the finalized paper and announce the key messages that are decided upon. In the paper, the Penta-countries agree on common regulatory principles with flexibility based on national and market conditions. The Penta-countries are in support of an integrated network planning between hydrogen, natural gas and electricity. The paper defines the conditions of involvement of TSO or DSO in electrolyzer facilities. Hydrogen blending is also mentioned as well as the need for common definitions and system for certification.
