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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Energy situation in the EU in the context of the war in Ukraine - <i>Exchange of views</i>

Ahead of the extraordinary meeting of the TTE (Energy) Council on 2 May 2022, delegations will find attached the background note prepared by the French Presidency.

The recent decisions taken by Gazprom to completely suspend the supply of gas under its contracts with certain Member States again show the urgency and importance of an exchange between ministers on the situation.

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, several instruments have been proposed by the European Commission to address the European Union's security of supply challenges, such as the joint gas purchasing platform, the REPowerEU Communication and the Regulation on gas storage published on 23 March. These are in addition to the coordination and solidarity mechanisms already in place, in particular in the context of the Regulation on security of gas supply.

The **European Council** of 24 and 25 March stated that refilling of gas storage across the Union should take place as soon as possible, taking fully into account national preparedness measures. With a view to next winter, Member States and the Commission must:

- a) establish the necessary solidarity and compensation mechanisms relating to gas storage;
- b) work together, in the EU Energy Purchase Platform framework, on voluntary common purchase of gas, LNG and hydrogen, making optimal use of the collective political and market weight of the European Union and its Member States to dampen prices in negotiations;
- c) strengthen gas and electricity interconnections throughout the European Union, including full synchronisation of power grids;
- d) work on ensuring the security of supplies for all Member States.

The common purchase platform has been established. The Gas Coordination Group and the Commission have carried out an initial analysis of the risks and of the preparedness of the Member States and at European level, to ensure alternative supplies or to reduce demand.

On 18 May, the Commission plans to present the REPowerEU plan to reduce the EU's energy dependence on Russia through joint European action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy.

In the context of Gazprom's actions, this ministerial discussion will take stock of possible further actions in terms of ensuring security of supply, gas transit and management of gas stocks, especially with regard to the coming weeks and months. It will also aim to draw lessons from the work of the Gas Coordination Group, identify measures to be implemented to strengthen coordination between Member States, and identify common messages to be disseminated.

Ministers will be invited to express their views on two questions in particular:

1- What is your analysis of your specific situation in the light of the latest developments?

2- How can the EU's preparedness for a supply crisis be strengthened? What solidarity measures and instruments within the EU would you like to promote in this context?

As regards the possibility of supply disruption, ministers will be invited to exchange analyses on preparedness, solidarity measures and possible emergency measures to strengthen and better coordinate the exchange of information, including on consumption.
