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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Competitiveness Council of 28 November 2024: The development of European Battery Production and way ahead to ensure a competitive European battery industry - Information from Sweden, France and Germany

The development of European Battery Production and way ahead to ensure a competitive European battery industry

We need to accelerate the pace of electrification. Sustainable batteries are a key technology for the transition to a fossil-free energy system and the electrification of the transport sector, not the least for the automotive industry. Furthermore, if the EU can provide conditions to foster a competitive European battery production, it would reduce security dependencies for the union.

We welcome the steps taken so far by the EU to establish a competitive and sustainable European battery production and value chain, including the Strategic Action Plan on Batteries, the Batteries Regulation and IPCEI. Further, the European Battery Alliance has played an important role in enabling battery development, production and investment in Europe.

Still, several European battery companies are facing severe challenges to become competitive. While the problems differ for each company, one common denominator is that it is challenging to establish a new industry and that global competition is not based on a level playing field.

We need to send a strong signal that we stand behind agreed efforts to secure a competitive and sustainable battery value chain in Europe. We therefore encourage the incoming Commission to consider how to ensure conditions for existing European Battery production, inter alia in the work with the upcoming ETS-Innovation call on batteries (including existing Gigafactory projects) Clean Industrial Deal, implementation of the Batteries Regulation and Net Zero Industry Act and by accelerating the work in the European Battery Alliance.
