



9612/21

(OR. en)

PRESSE 14
PR CO 14

OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3801st Council meeting

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy

Energy issues

Luxembourg, 11 June 2021

President

João Pedro Matos Fernandes
Minister for the Environment and Climate Action of
Portugal

P R E S S

CONTENTS¹

ITEMS DEBATED

ENERGY	3
TEN-E regulation	3
A hydrogen strategy for a climate-neutral Europe	3
Renovation wave strategy	4
ANY OTHER BUSINESS	5
External energy relations	5
Ostrovets nuclear power plant in Belarus	5
EU taxonomy for sustainable economic activities	5
Slovenian Presidency	5

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

GENERAL AFFAIRS

– Enlargement: Accession negotiation with Montenegro	6
– COVID-19: Certificate on vaccination, testing and recovery	6

EU POSITIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

– International civil aviation	6
--------------------------------------	---

TRANSPARENCY - PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

¹ • Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
 • Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
 • Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

ENERGY

TEN-E regulation

Ministers agreed on a general approach on the proposed revision of the regulation on Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E).

The general approach aims to modernise, decarbonise and interconnect the EU's cross-border energy infrastructure to help the EU reach its 2050 climate-neutrality objective. At the same time, it aims to continue ensuring market integration, competitiveness and security of supply.

[Watch the recording of the public debate](#)

[Watch the recording of the public debate](#)

[Council agrees on new rules for cross-border energy infrastructure \(press release 11 June 2021\)](#)

[Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 347/2013](#)

[Clean energy: fuelling the transition to a low-carbon economy \(background information\)](#)

A hydrogen strategy for a climate-neutral Europe

Ministers held an exchange of views on the evolution of the hydrogen strategy in Europe. The strategy aims to create an enabling environment to scale up hydrogen supply and demand as a key element in the clean energy transition.

Ministers discussed how member states can cooperate in order to create the right conditions to foster the hydrogen market and how to speed up regulation on end-use technologies to increase hydrogen uptake, in particular in the hard-to-decarbonise sectors. Ministers also discussed the funding priorities for hydrogen and how support for exports can be enhanced.

The Commission presented a 'Hydrogen Strategy for a Climate-Neutral Europe' in July 2020. In December 2020, the Council approved conclusions recognising the important role that hydrogen, especially from renewable sources, plays in reaching the EU's decarbonisation objectives, and calling the Commission to further elaborate and operationalise the strategy.

[Watch the recording of the public debate](#)

[Presidency background paper](#)

[Council conclusions - Towards a hydrogen market for Europe](#)

[Commission communication on a hydrogen strategy for a climate-neutral Europe](#)

Renovation wave strategy

Ministers approved Council conclusions on a renovation wave that repairs the economy now, and creates green buildings for the future.

The renovation wave strategy aims to ramp up renovation efforts throughout Europe in order to enable the building sector to make the necessary contribution to the 2050 climate neutrality goal and in order to deliver a fair and just green transition. The Council conclusions emphasise the aspects of social inclusion, economic recovery and green transition. They promote renovations that reduce energy use, curb greenhouse gas emissions and increase cost savings. The strategy also recognises the pivotal role of buildings renovation in the process of economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council conclusions endorse the aim of the strategy to at least double energy-related renovation rates in the EU by 2030, while tackling energy poverty, creating new jobs and promoting the circular economy.

[Watch the recording of the public debate](#)

[Council approves conclusions on an EU renovation wave \(press release 11 June 2021\)](#)

[Draft Council conclusions on a renovation wave that repairs the economy now, and creates green buildings for the future](#)

[Communication from the Commission on A Renovation Wave for Europe - greening our buildings, creating jobs, improving lives](#)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

External energy relations

The Commission informed ministers of recent developments in the field of external energy relations, including energy diplomacy, the IEA net zero initiative, IRENA, the Energy Charter Treaty and the next EU-US Energy Council.

[Information from the Commission](#)

Ostrovets nuclear power plant in Belarus

The Lithuanian delegation drew the attention of ministers to the need for urgent action concerning safety recommendations at the Ostrovets nuclear power plant in Belarus. The information presented by the Lithuanian delegation concerned the implementation of nuclear safety recommendations outlined in the EU peer review report of the Belarus NPP stress test and the European Council conclusions of December 2020.

[Information from the Lithuanian delegation](#)

EU taxonomy for sustainable economic activities

The Czech delegation invited ministers to reflect on the EU taxonomy for sustainable economic activities and further possible steps regarding it. The taxonomy regulation (EU) 2020/852 provides a framework for classifying economic activities that can qualify as environmentally sustainable. The regulation was followed by a first delegated act adopted by the Commission on 21 April 2021, classifying economic activities with regard to their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Economic and Financial Affairs Council is the lead for this file.

[Information from the Czech delegation](#)

Slovenian Presidency

Finally, the Slovenian delegation presented the work programme for its upcoming presidency.

OTHER TEMS APPROVED**GENERAL AFFAIRS****Enlargement: Accession negotiation with Montenegro**

The Council approved the EU common position for the 13th meeting of the EU-Montenegro Intergovernmental Conference. This position is in line with the application of the revised enlargement methodology to the accession negotiations with Montenegro and Serbia ([8536/21](#)). The common position will be made available to Montenegro before the next meeting of the Accession Conference.

COVID-19: Certificate on vaccination, testing and recovery

The Council adopted the two regulations (PE-CONS 25/21 and PE-CONS 26/21) on a framework for the issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery certificate (EU Digital COVID certificate) to facilitate free movement during the COVID-19 pandemic. After being signed by the President of the European Parliament and the President of the Council, the legislative act will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

EU POSITIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS**International civil aviation**

The Council adopted a framework decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the EU, in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) when that body is called upon to adopt decisions having legal effects ([8505/21](#); [8507/1/21 REV 1](#)).

TRANSPARENCY - PUBLIC ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

On 11 June 2021, the Council approved the reply to confirmatory applications:

- No 16/c/01/21 ([9392/21](#) + [ADD 1](#), [8398/21](#))
- No 17/c/01/21 ([8406/21](#), [8405/21](#))
- No 18/c/01/21 ([9409/21](#) + [COR 1](#) + [ADD 1](#), [8501/21](#))