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Environment

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President **Siim Kiisler**
Minister for the Environment of Estonia

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

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- 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

Non-ETS sectors: effort-sharing and LULUCF

The Council agreed its negotiating positions on the effort-sharing regulation and the regulation on land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF). Negotiations with the European Parliament can now start with the aim of reaching an agreement on the final text.

These pieces of legislation will cut greenhouse gas emissions in sectors falling outside the scope of the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS).

These legislations will allow the EU to move closer to achieving its overall goal of reducing emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels, and thus to meeting its commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change. Non-ETS sectors will specifically contribute to that target through a reduction in emissions of 30% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.

For more information see the press releases on [effort sharing](#) and [LULUCF](#).

Paris Agreement and COP23

Council adopted conclusions on Paris Agreement and preparations for the UNFCCC meetings (Bonn, 6-17 November 2017):

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Global action under the Paris Agreement

1. UNDERLINES the crucial importance of a rules-based global order, with multilateralism as its key principle and the United Nations at its core for a peaceful and sustainable world;
2. WELCOMES the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement, as a testimony to the international community's determination to confront the shared challenge of climate change; STRESSES that the Paris Agreement is irreversible and its full integrity and implementation are key for security and prosperity of the whole planet; EMPHASISES the clear signal that it provides to governments, subnational authorities, civil society, business and the private sector on the direction of global actions on climate change;

3. RECOGNISES with great concern the increasing intensity and/or frequency of extreme weather events that have caused numerous deaths and extensive displacement of population, impacted the livelihood and human health of millions around the world, and resulted in billions of euros worth of damage to infrastructure and ecosystems; NOTES that according to scientific research climate change is contributing to increased intensity and/or frequency of these extreme weather events; NOTES with concern the Arctic Council's recent findings that the Arctic is warming at more than twice the rate of global average resulting in serious global consequences;
4. EMPHASISES that the participation and contribution of each and every country is essential for strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change and achieving the long term goals of the Paris Agreement, in the context of sustainable development, poverty eradication, food security, gender equality, respect for human rights, respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and protection of biodiversity; EXPRESSES its solidarity with the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;
5. RECONFIRMS the European Union's commitment to implement fully the Paris Agreement, most recently expressed by the 2017 June European Council and the 19 June Foreign Affairs Council; EMPHASISES the critical importance of the Paris Agreement as the global instrument for enhancing collective action against climate change, contributing to global security and accelerating the transition to low-greenhouse gas emission, sustainable and climate resilient economies and societies;
6. REAFFIRMS that the EU will continue to lead global efforts to combat climate change and remains committed to continuing cooperation with all Parties on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, to strengthen its existing partnerships and to seek new alliances with our international partners and work together with diverse actors, that have voiced their support for the Paris Agreement and that are taking ambitious climate action; CALLS ON all partners to keep up the momentum towards successful results at COP23, COP24 and beyond;
7. WELCOMES the ratification of the Paris Agreement by 166 Parties, including the completion of ratifications by all EU Member States; ENCOURAGES all other countries to ratify the Agreement as soon as possible; REITERATES its strong support to the inclusive approach ensuring that all Parties can participate in and fully contribute to the operationalisation and implementation of the Paris Agreement;

Advancing implementation of the Paris Agreement

8. RECONFIRMS the EU's commitment to continue the implementation of its climate policies, in line with the 2030 climate and energy policy framework for the European Union agreed by the October 2014 European Council; WELCOMES progress towards implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of the EU and its Member States to achieve the target of reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions of at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels; RECOGNISES the importance of the long term goals and the five-year review cycles in the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
9. UNDERLINES that the EU is on track to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for 2020 of reducing emissions by 20% compared to 1990; REITERATES that the EU and its Member States are already meeting their obligations under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and that according to recent data they are likely to exceed their 2020 target, while the economy grew;
10. URGES all countries to proceed with preparations and implementation of their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and, as appropriate, country-driven adaptation planning processes; NOTES that the effort and actions by G20 countries, accounting for some 80% of global greenhouse gas emission, are of critical importance; REAFFIRMS the EU and its Member States' commitment to continue sharing experiences with and support partner countries in developing and implementing their NDCs, in the context of low-emission and climate-resilient development and to foster linking of NDCs with national development strategies, including through initiatives such as the NDC Partnership; RECOGNISES efforts by Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States;
11. UNDERLINES the increasing contributions resulting from multilateral cooperation through the Convention and voluntary and collaborative actions through the Global Climate Action Agenda (GCAA) for achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement; APPRECIATES current and announced efforts and pledges by sub-national authorities, businesses, civil society, and other non-state actors to advance climate action; INVITES further efforts in this field; WELCOMES the work of the Global Climate Action Champions; ENCOURAGES their efforts to build understanding on the progress and delivery of GCAA initiatives and coalitions; and SUPPORTS their approach towards the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action;

12. UNDERLINES the critical role of the IPCC in providing the scientific inputs to the work of the UNFCCC and the main scientific basis for the implementation of the Paris Agreement; LOOKS FORWARD to the IPCC's Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above preindustrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways; CONSIDERS that the 1.5°C Special Report will be a valuable source of information for the discussions next year in the context of the 2018 facilitative dialogue;
13. HIGHLIGHTS the importance of long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies as a policy tool for developing reliable pathways and the long term policy changes needed to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement; and ENCOURAGES the development thereof; WELCOMES the initiative of the European Commission and Member States to prepare an in-depth analysis of the environmental, economic and social impacts of pathways that are coherent with the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement so as to inform EU political debates with a view to formulate the EU strategy in accordance with paragraph 35 of Decision 1/CP21;
14. RECALLS that ambitious climate action is a strategic priority in the EU and its Member States' diplomatic dialogues to enhance cooperation and concrete joint action with partner countries in line with the 2016 Climate Diplomacy Action Plan and the Council conclusions of March 2017 on EU climate and energy diplomacies;
15. RECALLS its conclusions of 10 October 2017 on climate finance]; [REAFFIRMS that the EU and its Member States are committed to continuing to scale up the mobilisation of international climate finance, as part of the collective developed countries' goal to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 through to 2025 for mitigation and adaptation purposes, from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels; REITERATES that public climate finance will continue to play a significant role; HIGHLIGHTS that the EU and its Member States are the largest provider of public climate finance and stresses the need for future participation of a broader range of contributors;
16. REITERATES its call on all Parties to design the global stocktake (GST) as the key element of a wider ambition cycle that will inform and incentivize processes to progressively enhance ambitious action, both domestically and collectively; CONSIDERS that the GST should result in a shared understanding of the overall effect of Parties' contributions and of what collectively needs to be done to achieve the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long term goals, as well as for concrete opportunities for climate action; STRESSES the importance of striving towards common time frames for all Parties' NDCs;

COP23 deliverables

17. APPRECIATES Fiji's unique leadership as the first small island state to preside a COP; CONFIRMS its support for the incoming Fijian Presidency of the COP/CMP/CMA in its initiatives in the run-up to and at COP23 with a view to a successful meeting;
18. WELCOMES the inclusive and transparent consultations held by the current and incoming Moroccan and Fijian COP Presidencies in May 2017 on the organization of the 2018 facilitative dialogue, the first key political moment after Paris where Parties will take stock of their collective efforts towards achieving the objective set out in Article 4 (1) of the Paris Agreement; NOTES that results of the facilitative dialogue will inform the preparation of NDCs in accordance with paragraph 20 of Decision 1/CP.21; STRESSES the importance of leaving COP23 with sufficient clarity on how the 2018 facilitative dialogue will be conducted; ENVISAGES the active participation of the EU and the Member States in the 2018 facilitative dialogue;
19. LOOKS FORWARD to a constructive Global Climate Action Champions High-level Event at COP23 and an enhanced role of non-state actors;
20. RECOGNISES the progress made on the Paris work programme by Marrakech COP22 and the Bonn Subsidiary Bodies meetings in May 2017; UNDERLINES that COP23 in Bonn should make substantial progress in the form of draft decisions or textual elements in all mandated items of the Paris work programme with a view to secure the adoption of decisions at COP24; SUPPORTS advancing the preparation of the implementation of all provisions of the Agreement in a balanced manner, comprising mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation and the transparency framework as a core element to ensure the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement;
21. LOOKS FORWARD to work productively with other Parties, in the run-up to and at COP24 in Katowice in Poland in 2018, with a view to a successful outcome under the agreed work programme in preparation for the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

Other processes

22. STRESSES the importance of pursuing the enhanced coordination coherence and synergies between the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction as well as with other Rio Conventions and relevant UN strategies; NOTES that these multilateral instruments demonstrated the necessity and the capacity of all UN Member States to work in partnership to address global issues - climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to reduce and manage disaster risk, and to eradicate poverty;
23. WELCOMES the adoption of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to phase-down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) at the twenty-eighth Meeting of the Parties, and RECALLS the adoption by the Council of the decision to conclude, on behalf of the EU, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol; WELCOMES the fact that a number of Member States have already initiated and some already completed their national ratification procedures of the Kigali Amendment; ENCOURAGES other Member States to complete their national ratification procedures and other Parties to ratify the Kigali Amendment as soon as possible, in order to ensure the entry into force of the Kigali Amendment on 1 January 2019;
24. WELCOMES the agreement by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) and looks forward to the finalisation of its operational rules and its timely implementation; STRESSES the need to ensure environmental integrity, including by avoiding double counting; INVITES all Parties to participate in the voluntary phase of CORSIA;
25. CALLS on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to further accelerate its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the maritime sector and to adopt in April 2018 an ambitious initial IMO Strategy on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from ships including further measures in line with the IMO roadmap and the long term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement."

EU Priorities for the UN Environment Assembly

Council conclusions on the European Union priorities for the third meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3) held in Nairobi on 4-6 December 2017:

"RECALLING that the United Nations Environment Assembly (the Assembly) of the United Nations Environment Programme is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment;

RECALLING that the United Nations Environment Programme is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations (UN) system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment;

REAFFIRMING the commitment of the European Union (EU) and its Member States to the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, chemicals and waste agreements and other environmental agreements; and NOTING that these multilateral commitments demonstrate the necessity and the capacity of all UN Member States to work in partnership to address global issues;

RECALLING the Council Conclusions "A sustainable European future: The EU response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" of 20 June 2017 ¹ as an important step towards achieving the SDGs in a balanced and integrated way;

EMPHASIZING the commitment of the EU and its Member States to work actively in cooperation with other UN Member States, the private sector, academia and civil society in spearheading knowledge transfer and solution-oriented action towards achieving a circular economy and inclusive sustainable growth;

RECOGNIZING that pollution is a pressing global challenge, often with transboundary impact and scientifically proven consequences far beyond the environment, including on human health and well-being and especially on vulnerable groups;

¹ Doc. 10370/17.

UNDERLINING that it has been estimated that 6.5 million people across the world die prematurely every year from exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution ¹; 58% of the cases of diarrheal diseases are due to water pollution and lack of access to clean water and sanitation ²; 2 billion people worldwide lack access to solid waste collection ³; about 4.8–12.7 million metric tons of plastic waste is thought to have entered the ocean in 2010 ⁴ and 557 species among all groups of wildlife are affected by entanglement or ingestion of plastic debris in the sea ⁵; and that the costs of chemical pollution (volatile organic compounds, lead, mercury) amount to 480 billion USD ⁶;

UNDERLINING the primacy of prevention and early action in addressing pollution; RECALLING in this respect the precautionary and the polluter-pays principles, and REAFFIRMING the need for their effective application;

STRESSING that pollution needs to be effectively addressed at global, regional, national and local levels, HIGHLIGHTING in this regard the need for a sound governance and TAKING a coherent and integrated approach;

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- (1) WELCOMES the upcoming 3rd Session of the Assembly under the overarching theme "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" with the aim of putting forward ambitious, effective and collaborative action towards preventing and reducing pollution, and APPRECIATES the work carried out by the United Nations Environment Programme to provide scientific information on pollution-related issues and to promote policy coherence, especially the substantial input from the Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the theme of the 3rd Session of the Assembly;
- (2) EMPHASIZES the utmost importance of concerted and ambitious action and wide international mobilization to tackle pollution, taking into account the links with climate change, biodiversity loss and desertification, in order to prevent and substantially reduce adverse effects on human health and well-being, ecosystems and living species, since pollution in turn affects water and food security, economic development and social justice, including health equality;

¹ Report "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" (2017), page III.

² Report "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" (2017), page III.

³ Report "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" (2017), page III.

⁴ J. R. Jambeck et al., *Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean* (Science, 13 February 2015).

⁵ Kühn, S., et al., *Deleterious Effects of Litter on Marine Life*, in Bergmann, M., et al., *Marine Anthropogenic Litter* (Springer, 2015).

⁶ Report "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" (2017), page II.

- (3) REAFFIRMS the strong inter-linkages between environment and health and the importance to address them jointly; CALLS UPON the 3rd Session of the Assembly to decide upon concrete actions and measures to deal with specific issues that have adverse impacts on health and the environment, such as heavy metals, antimicrobial resistance, endocrine disruptors, and the growing use of hazardous pesticides and fertilizers; RECOGNIZES that biodiversity loss is a major health risk multiplier, also by aggravating environmental challenges; and UNDERLINES the benefits for health and well-being in protecting biodiversity and restoring degraded ecosystems;
- (4) EMPHASIZES the need for all UN Member States to monitor air quality status and trends, set ambitious air quality goals, and put in place policies and measures for relevant sectors; CALLS UPON all Member States of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to join and fully implement the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the revised Protocols to it, and promote cooperation of the Convention with similar regional fora globally; UNDERLINES the relevance of maximizing synergies between policies on air quality and policies on climate change mitigation, chemicals and waste management, biodiversity, health, transport, energy and agriculture; and STRESSES that the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change greatly contributes to tackling air pollution;
- (5) EMPHASIZES the importance of ensuring good quality of surface water and groundwater, the need to implement measures to improve regular monitoring and assessment of water quality and to prevent and reduce water pollution as far as possible through effective measures at source and by accelerating efforts to reduce the share of waste water released to the environment without any or insufficient treatment; STRESSES the particular importance of international cooperation on waters, and ENCOURAGES UN Member States to join and implement the UNECE Water Convention ¹, its relevant Protocols, and the UN Watercourses Convention ²;

¹ Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Helsinki, 1992.

² Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses, New York, 1997.

- (6) REAFFIRMS the commitment of the EU and its Member States to the “Our ocean, our future: call for action” Declaration adopted at the UN Ocean Conference ¹, and WELCOMES the voluntary commitments to address marine pollution made at this conference; STRESSES the need to urgently address marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land based activities according to the source-to-sea approach, including nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater and hazardous substances, and marine litter, with specific focus on plastics and micro-plastics, as well as noise pollution and acidification of the oceans; and CALLS UPON UN Member States to develop and adopt measures and incentives, including legislation, to phase-out micro-plastics from identified key sources, and reduce the production and promote the sustainable use of plastics and sharing of best practices globally;
- (7) UNDERLINES that the UN Member States and relevant UN organizations need to address the soil pollution and soil contamination both from diffuse and point sources and their wide ranging ramifications, such as secondary air pollution, impact on human health, agriculture and food security, biodiversity and ecosystems and nitrogen pollution; RECOGNIZES that there is a large knowledge gap on the extent of soil pollution and its impact on the environment and health; and INVITES the 3rd Session of the Assembly to address it;
- (8) EMPHASIZES the important role of sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their whole life cycle in ensuring the well-being of society, achieving relevant goals of the 2030 Agenda, as well as in transitioning to a circular economy, while bearing in mind that the growing global production, use and trade in chemicals is placing an increasing burden on all countries, especially on developing countries; HIGHLIGHTS also the possible role of sustainable chemistry and other approaches and solutions, such as safe non-chemical alternatives, as reflected in the Assembly Resolution 2/7 ², in addressing these challenges; CALLS on UN Member States to increase knowledge of hazardous substances and information exchange on chemicals in products, and replace hazardous chemicals with safer alternatives; WELCOMES the entry into force of the Minamata Convention; and CALLS on all UN Member States to ratify the convention and work towards its effective implementation;

¹ Endorsed by UN General Assembly Resolution 71/312 on 6 July 2017.

² UNEA 2/7 “Sound management of chemicals and waste”.

- (9) UNDERLINES the need to engage municipalities in programmes to prevent and reduce pollution in cities and assist in forging alliances to promote best practices, technological innovations and good governance, stressing its relevance to the implementation of SDG 11 of the 2030 Agenda; and CALLS FOR the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which addresses inter alia air, water, marine, soil and noise pollution, the need for sustainable solid waste management as well as the sustainable use of land;
- (10) UNDERLINES that in order to achieve concrete results in terms of a global prevention and reduction in pollution, we must make fundamental changes in the way our societies produce and consume goods and services, including promoting sustainable lifestyles, sustainable financing and circular economy through eco-innovation, sharing product sustainability information, reduce-reuse-recycle, ecosystem-based approaches, integrated life-cycle approaches, the development of new technologies and business models aiming at achieving a resource-efficient and low-carbon economy, and engage with the stakeholders in the exchange of best practices and expertise; URGES the 3rd Session of the Assembly to promote these approaches; and WELCOMES the intention of the International Resource Panel to contribute to the 3rd Session of the Assembly with the assessment of global resource use and the link between resource efficiency and pollution reduction;
- (11) LOOKS FORWARD TO the adoption by the 3rd Session of the Assembly of an ambitious, concise and action-oriented ministerial declaration, which expresses the political commitment of all UN Member States to effectively tackle pollution, including transboundary pollution;
- (12) UNDERLINES the need to further strengthen and enhance international and regional cooperation to successfully address pollution in an integrated way, promote cross-linkages and seek further synergies through relevant UN bodies, multilateral environmental agreements and international initiatives; and INVITES the 3rd Session of the Assembly to mandate the United Nations Environment Programme to set up an action programme for preventing and reducing pollution, building on existing mechanisms where appropriate;
- (13) WELCOMES the United Nations Environment Programme's initiative, in the context of the 3rd Session of the Assembly, to call for meaningful voluntary pledges and commitments to take action towards preventing and reducing pollution, as such commitments will constitute a crucial part of the 3rd Session of the Assembly outcomes and strengthen its action-oriented nature; WELCOMES the pledges and commitments already made; and CALLS UPON all UN Member States, relevant UN bodies, civil society, academia and private sector to demonstrate their global ambition and solution-oriented action;

- (14) CALLS upon the EU and its Member States to present, ahead of the 3rd Session of the Assembly, specific actions against pollution, in order to register relevant voluntary commitments in the context of the 3rd Session of the Assembly;
- (15) HIGHLIGHTS the importance of education, lifelong learning and raising public awareness of the environmental challenges in order to stress personal responsibility to prevent and reduce pollution through more sustainable lifestyles and consumption patterns; INVITES in this context the United Nations Environment Programme to provide guidance on product sustainability information; and EMPHASIZES the importance of communicating the outcomes of the 3rd Session of the Assembly to the broader public in an appealing and accessible manner, so that every person can understand the importance of preventing and reducing pollution and how this will benefit their health, welfare and living environment, thereby conveying the role of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Assembly in making a significant, positive difference to the planet and to people's everyday lives;
- (16) WELCOMES the standing invitation by the UN General Assembly to the President of the UN Environment Assembly to the session of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF); HIGHLIGHTS the contribution of the Assembly in providing policy guidance and defining policy responses to address emerging and persistent environmental challenges in the implementation of the SDGs; STRESSES that pollution prevention and reduction are necessary for delivering on the 2030 Agenda; and CALLS ON the 3rd Session of the Assembly to send clear political messages to the detailed review of SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15 at the HLPF in 2018."

Other business

– ***Recent international meetings***

The Council took note of the information provided by the presidency and the Commission on several recent international meetings:

- Sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP 6) to the Aarhus Convention on Access to information, Public participation in decision-making and Access to justice in environmental matters (Budva, Montenegro, 11–13 September 2017)
- Joint high-level segment under the Meetings of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs (Budva, Montenegro, 14 September 2017)

- Third session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOPP 3) to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, (Budva, Montenegro, 15 September 2017)

Information note ([12930/17](#))

- First meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury (COP 1) (Geneva, 24–29 September 2017)

Information note ([12997/17](#))

- 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 13) (Ordos, China, 6–16 September 2017)

Information note (13000/17)

- ***Assessment of chemical substances***

The Council took note of the information provided by the French, Luxembourg and Italian delegations during a public session as regards a more transparent, more effective and safer assessment of chemical substances.

Information note ([12893/17](#))

- ***China Europe Water Platform (CEWP) High-Level Conference (Turku, Finland, 21-22 September 2017)***

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission about the China-Europe Water Platform (CEWP) High-Level Conference that took place in Turku, Finland from 21 to 22 September 2017.

Information note ([13047/17](#))

Coordination and coherence between the integrated national energy and climate plans for 2030 and the long-term emission reduction strategies

The Luxembourg delegation informed the Council during a public session about the importance, for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, of good coordination of and coherence between the integrated national energy and climate plans for 2030 and the long-term emission reduction strategies, as well as of minimum quality, comparability and transparency standards.

Information note ([12914/17](#))

– ***International seminar “Science for Peace the World Over” (Erice, Italy, 18–24 August 2017)***

The Council took note of the information provided by the Polish delegation about the outcome of the 50th session of the international seminar "Science for Peace the World Over", held in Erice (Italy) from 20 to 23 August 2017.

Information note ([12924/17](#))

– ***Ratification of the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol***

The UK and Luxembourg informed the Council about the current state of play for the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol by the EU and all member states.

The Kigali Amendment, adopted in 2016, will enter into force in 2019 upon ratification by 20 of the parties to the Montreal Protocol. The Council agreed its position to conclude and ratify the amendment, on behalf of the EU, on 11 May 2017.

At this moment, member states are following their national ratification procedures to obtain the approval from their national parliaments. The aim is to submit the instrument of ratification from the EU and those from the member states simultaneously before the forthcoming Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol this November.

Under this amendment, the EU commits to start cutting its use of hydrofluorocarbons, which are powerful greenhouse gases used as an alternative to ozone-depleting substances, by 2019.

Information note ([12962/17](#))

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED
