



Brussels, 9 March 2006

**DRAFT**

**BACKGROUND**<sup>1</sup>

***TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY COUNCIL***

***- Energy issues -***

**Tuesday 14 March in Brussels**

*The half-day Council's meeting will start at 10:00 under the presidency of Mr Martin Bartenstein, Austrian Federal Minister of Economics and Labour.*

*The Council will hold a policy debate on **a secure, competitive and sustainable energy** for Europe.*

*The presidency will hold a press conference at the end of the meeting.*

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the sole responsibility of the Press Service.

## **A secure, competitive and sustainable energy for Europe**

The Commission will present a green paper on “a European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy”, adopted on 8 March, and the Council will hold a policy debate.

The presidency has prepared a questionnaire in order to structure the debate, focusing on the Commission's analysis of the challenges facing the Community's energy policy and its proposed solutions; on other dimensions of energy policy that are not addressed by the Commission and on ministers' main concerns and preferred solutions.

The Council is also due to adopt without discussion (A-point) conclusions, entitled "*A new energy policy for Europe*", which constitute the contribution of the Energy Council to the Spring European Council.

At the end of the debate the presidency intends to draw a set of presidency conclusions which will constitute a complementary part of the energy input to the Spring European Council.

### **Other business**

- The Council will take note on information from the presidency on the Agriculture Council's ongoing work on bioenergy (6601/06).

- The Council will hear an information by the Polish delegation of its initiative "Treaty on energy security".

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