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To: [REDACTED] (ENV)
Subject: FW: REPORT Meeting with leading Finnish industries - 31 January DDG Patrick Child

Categories: ARES

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Subject: REPORT Meeting with leading Finnish industries - 31 January DDG Patrick Child

DDG Patrick Child met the group of leading Finnish companies including Nokia, Neste, Konecranes, Wärtsilä and Valmet. The delegation was led by Neste [REDACTED]. DDG gave introductory remarks underlining that the EGD remains a high priority for the Commission despite a complex political context. He agreed that the Green Deal agenda is very packed and a lot of proposals were coming from DG ENV under this mandate in the area such as ZP, CE and BD. Now the question is how the institutions will be able to conclude them. He referred to the upcoming communication on Green Deal Industrial Plan and the upcoming initiatives from DG ENV on REACH, the Soil Law and Forest monitoring.

Chemicals recycling: *Neste, the world's leading provider of renewable diesel, sustainable aviation fuel, an expert in delivering renewable, circular polymers, chemicals solutions, questioned about the chemical recycling and prospects for further developments in the field of sustainable fuels in the current energy crisis.*

DDG congratulated Neste for their innovative approach and the shift towards CE. He expressed his interest in different approaches to chemicals recycling, however pointed out that for the moment the technology is highly energy intensive and costly. The forthcoming Net Zero Industry Act will provide a timely response to the challenges of high energy prices for key sectors. He referred to the additional funding available under RRF and the EU Innovation Fund.

Waste to energy and batteries: *Fortum and Valmet wanted to understand better EU's waste to energy plan and how to deal with not treated hazardous waste, for instance battery recycling. They questioned what is the sustainable waste to energy (the criteria has not been updated), how to use the waste that cannot be recycled?*

DDG recalled the Commission's 2017 Communication on energy recovery from waste and its place in the circular economy. Waste-to-energy is a broad term that covers much more than waste incineration. It encompasses various waste treatment processes generating energy, each of which has different environmental impacts and circular economy potential. A condition is that

Member States ensure that their national policies and their support schemes are designed in accordance with the waste hierarchy. He also underlined that the Batteries Regulation was agreed in December and explained that within the batteries regulation there will need to be a significant body of secondary legislation that Commission is working to deliver. The idea indeed is that products should be reused first before being recycled. PC noted that there will be an opportunity to discuss these issues in the forthcoming revision of the waste framework directive. He also referred to the Taxo4 under preparation as an opportunity to define further sustainable investments.

IED: *How to involve researchers and industry in the decision making process to have the right technology in order to comply with the highest limit values/how to measure them.* DDG explained that the SE Presidency is aiming for a general agreement in March. On limit values and technologies, DDG pointed to the Seville process and the dialogue with industry, NGOs, researchers etc. The shift towards the default standards at the highest level of ambition was intended to ensure more equal treatment between Member State in the single market..

CLP- *a metals industry representative expressed concerns about the potential inclusion of safe metals (eg nickel) in the new hazard classes under the revised CLP regulation. He asked for clarification on the potential consequences of the envisaged new approach for generic risk assessment/essential use under the forthcoming REACH revision.* DDG explained that the approach still being developed and it will be done step by step, the risk based approach will continue.

Green claims– *the Microsoft representative stressed that consumers benefit from product labelling, however there is a proliferation of schemes across the EU. He wanted to know if the Green claims is a Directive or Regulation?* DDG assured that the proposal though slightly delayed is coming in March and indeed by introducing the EU legislation could avoid proliferation. He noted industry preference to have Regulation to create a single European Framework as this would give much more certainty/clarity to industry.

The exchange ended with a question about the preparations for the next Commission. DDG agreed that the Green Deal agenda produced a lot of legislations but the Commission is also thinking how to accompany the green transition with funding, state aid rules etc to avoid over regulations. The Green Deal will remain and will continue being EU's growth strategy strengthening its competitiveness.