



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, **XXX**
[...](2015) **XXX** draft

COMMISSION DECISION

of **XXX**

**on establishing the Commission's proposal to the Ministerial Council of the Energy
Community on the Budget of the Energy Community for the period 2016-2017**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Decision 2006/500 of 29 May 2006 on the conclusion by the European Community of the Energy Community Treaty,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the Energy Community, and in particular Articles 73, 74 and 88 thereof,

Having regard to Articles 24 and 25 of the Energy Community Procedures for the Establishment and Implementation of Budget, Auditing and Inspection (Procedural Act N° 2006/03/MA-EnC as amended by Procedural Act 2014/01/MC-EnC).

Whereas:

- (1) The European Union is a party to the Energy Community;
- (2) Articles 74 and 88 of the Energy Community Treaty provide that the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community shall adopt the bi-annual budget of the Energy Community by Procedural Act on a proposal from the European Commission;
- (3) For the next budgetary period 2016-2017, the European Commission shall present a proposal to the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community;
- (4) Under Article 25 of the Energy Community Procedures for the Establishment and Implementation of Budget, Auditing and Inspection, the Commission shall propose the number of staff that it considers that the Energy Community needs to carry out its tasks under the Energy Community Treaty;
- (5) The Commission has received a draft budget (Explanatory memorandum) from Energy Community Secretariat, with total sums of 5.2m€for 2016 and 5.3 m€for 2016,
- (6) Having analysed the draft budget the Commission has lowered these amounts to 4.6m€for both years for the following reasons: (a) at this stage it is not clear whether the Austrian authorities will lower their financial contribution for the expenditures for office rent; (b) and whether, connected to the decision of the Austrian authorities, a move to larger offices will take place; (c) the Secretariat of the Energy Community has not been able at this stage to substantiate the increase of expenditures in 2016 for studies and consultancy at the level of 44% in comparison to the year 2015 and further 20% in 2017,
- (7) The contributions of the Parties to the budget of the Energy Community are set at Annex IV of the Treaty establishing it.
- (8) The position of the European Union, as a Party to the Energy Community, concerning the adoption of the budget for 2016-2017 will be established in a second phase on the basis of a Council Decision; the present budget proposal is thus without prejudice to

the position of the European Union at the meeting of the Ministerial Council at which the budget will be adopted.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

For year 2016, the European Commission proposes to the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community to fix the budget of the Energy Community in €4.574.500 subject to the adoption of the Budget of the European Union for 2016.

For the same period, the Commission considers that, in order for the Energy Community to be able to perform its tasks, a total staff of 29 members will be necessary.

Article 2

For year 2017, the European Commission proposes to the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community to fix the budget of the Energy Community in €4.586.931 subject to the adoption of the Budget of the European Union for 2017.

For the same period, the Commission considers that, in order for the Energy Community to be able to perform its tasks, a total staff of 29 members will be necessary.

Article 3

The draft budget (Explanatory Memorandum), as set out in annex, has been revised by the European Commission, based on the evaluation of the proposal from the Energy Community.

The European Commission proposes to the Ministerial Council of the Energy Community to adopt it.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Miguel Arrias-Cañete
Member of the Commission