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17 May 2021

The Chairman

Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs

House of Representatives

Lifting of Reservations for the Fit for 55 package of legislative Proposals

Chairman,

As you may be aware, the 'Fit for 55' package was presented by the European Commission on 14 July 2021. The package of legislative proposals aims to align the EU's climate and energy policy framework with its new economy-wide climate target for 2030 of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% and to put it on track to reach its objective of becoming climate neutral by 2050. The package consists of a series of closely interconnected proposals either amending existing pieces of legislation or establishing new initiatives across a range of policy areas and economic sectors including transport.

On the four files under the remit of the TTE (Transport) Council (Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation, ReFuelEU Aviation, FuelEU Maritime and the CORSIA proposals) a large number of meetings of, respectively, the Working Parties on Intermodal Questions and Networks, Aviation, and Shipping have been organized, under the Slovenian and French Presidencies allowing for a thorough analysis of the four proposals. The discussions have now progressed steadily and are now at a stage whereby the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER) is recommending the Council to reach a general approach during its upcoming Meeting of Transport Ministers, scheduled to take place on the 2nd of June. For the CORSIA Proposal, the EU Member States will be asked to confirm the compromise reached at Working Group level and to approve the negotiating mandate with the European Parliament based on this compromise at COREPER.

The below listed proposals and their current state of play have been examined and there are no outstanding issues that require the retention of these reservations by Malta. Additionally, they were approved by Cabinet on 25 October 2021 and sent to Parliament on 1 February 2022.

In this respect, kindly be informed that the reservations for the below quoted proposals will be lifted by Malta at this stage. Nevertheless, while the Ministry looks forward to receiving the input from the

Committee, the Ministry remains available to provide any further update or information on these measures as may be requested by the Committee.

COM (2021) 559	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council
COM (2021) 561	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on ensuring a level playing field for sustainable air transport
COM (2021) 562	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in maritime transport and amending Directive 2009/16/EC
COM (2021) 567	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/87/EC as regards the notification of offsetting in respect of a global market-based measure for aircraft operators based in the Union

Best regards,



Hon. Aaron Farrugia

Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects