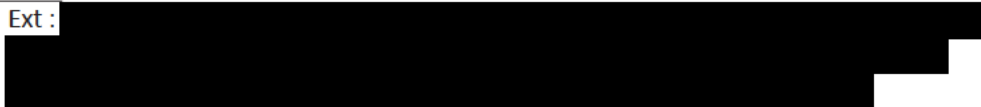
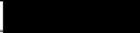


Cabinet of Commissioner Kadri SIMSON - Minutes of Meeting

MEETING CONCLUSIONS

Title	Meeting with the Swedish Forest Industries
Date	30 November 2022
Participants	Ext :  COM: Barbara Glowacka, Thor-Sten Vertmann, 
	Ares initial request : Ares(2023)524530
	Disclosure authorization : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES - <input type="checkbox"/> NO - <input type="checkbox"/> Partial (pls highlight unauthorized parts)
Issues raised & follow-up	<p>The meeting was organised at the request of the Swedish Forest Industries on the occasion of a visit to Brussels of their Energy Committee comprising energy directors and technical directors of member companies, such as Stora Enso and SCA. The aim of the meeting was to discuss ongoing work on the Renewable Energy Directive, ETS and also more general policies on how to reform the electricity market.</p> <p>The Swedish Forest Industries raised the importance of the forestry sector in the Swedish economy and its climate contribution as a carbon sink and as a resource for products that replace fossil based products.</p> <p>The Swedish forest-based industry is energy intensive with processes requiring large amounts of heat and electricity. The industry is Sweden's largest producer of bioenergy. Thus their main concern with the current negotiations on the review of the Renewable Energy Directive concerns the restrictions proposed by the European Parliament on the use of primary forest biomass where they consider that a role should be left for national authorities to assess what use of such feedstocks for fuels is in line with the sustainable domestic production potential. The Swedish Forest Industries stressed that trees are not harvested for energy, it is the residues that are not suitable for material uses that are used for energy. The Swedish Forest Industries also stressed the need to focus on the incentives provided by the Renewable Energy Directive rather than on specific feedstocks.</p> <p>The RePowerEU proposals to speed up permission processes were also raised. These are viewed positively (to support the record volumes of wind are being built in Sweden) but issues of implementation under Swedish law could emerge.</p> <p>On the electricity market design the Swedish Forest Industries stressed the need for considering aspects related to bidding zone configuration.</p> <p>The Swedish Forest Industries also touched upon the review of the ETS framework, calling for technology neutral benchmarks.</p> <p>COM explained the state of play in the negotiations on the review of the Renewable Energy Directive and the implementation of the RePowerEU Plan.</p>