Brussels, 15/06/2023

NOTE TO THE FILE

Subject: Meeting between Kurt Vandenberghe, Director General and Hydrogen Europe

Participants:
- Hydrogen Europe: 
- DG Climate Action: Kurt Vandenberghe,

Discussion:

[ ] congratulated the Commission on the speed in preparation of the pilot auction on the RFNBO hydrogen production under the Innovation Fund and expressed support for the key features of the economic design of this pilot auction (notably the simplicity of the fixed premium). He recognised the effort made in terms of engagement with stakeholders (workshops and written consultations). He stressed that Hydrogen Europe supports Auctions-as-a-Service as a main avenue for increasing the auction budget and asked how the association can help the Commission to spread the work to Member States.

[ ] suggested that the Commission should consider indexing the auction support to inflation and discussion followed on difficulties of such approach as provisioning would be required for a variable (rather than fixed) premium.

Another suggestion was connection of pilot auction to AggregateEU that has been very successful for natural gas purchases. Naturally, for hydrogen the current lack of infrastructure would be an obstacle for aggregation of demand across the EU but still projects could be interested in match-making offered by the platform and as infrastructure develops the interest and value added would also grow.

DG Vandenberghe explained that this year the Commission launches a pilot auction, with very few restrictions on the auction participation in order to judge the level of competition. Possible adjustments could be envisaged next year based on experience and comments received during the stakeholder consultation.

[ ] and [ ]