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REV 1

MK 1
REGIO 66

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject: Conclusions on including the Republic of North Macedonia in EUSAIR
- Adoption

1. In their letter of 5 October 2018, the four EUSAIR EU member states (Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia), wrote to the Presidency asking it to launch the procedure in the Council for the inclusion of the Republic of North Macedonia in the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR).¹
2. The Friends of the Presidency (Macro-Regional Strategies) Working Party at its meetings of 21 February and 20 March 2019 examined this request. At the meeting on 20 March 2019, it agreed the Conclusions accepting this request.
3. COREPER is, therefore, invited to recommend to the Council to adopt the Conclusions in Annex as an 'A' item at its meeting of 9 April 2019, with the United Kingdom abstaining.

¹ WK 3540/2019 INIT

Draft Council Conclusions on including the Republic of North Macedonia in EUSAIR

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

(1) RECALLING the conclusions of the Council of 29 September 2014² which endorsed the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) on the basis of the Commission's Communication of 17 June 2014³;

(2) CONSIDERING the Catania Declaration of 24 May 2018 where the Adriatic and Ionian Council/EUSAIR Ministerial Meeting accepted the request put forward by North Macedonia to become the ninth Participating Country of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, while inviting the Council of the European Union and the European Commission to undertake all necessary steps to include North Macedonia in the EUSAIR;

(3) CONSIDERING the letter of 5 October 2018 from the four EUSAIR EU member states (Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia) to the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU asking it to launch the procedure in the Council for the inclusion of North Macedonia in the EUSAIR, and NOTING the Austrian Presidency's reply of 6 December 2018 as well as Commissioner Cretu's positive reply in her letter of 20 November 2018;

A. WELCOMES and ACCEPTS the request put forward by the countries participating in the EUSAIR to include the Republic of North Macedonia in the EUSAIR;

B. INVITES the Commission to take the necessary steps to include North Macedonia in the EUSAIR and to submit an accordingly amended Strategy to the Council.

² doc. 13503/14

³ doc. 10675/14