



Brussels, 13 June 2016
(OR. en)

10113/16

CADREFIN 36
FSTR 29
POLGEN 54
REGIO 36
FC 24
ECOFIN 596
ENV 407
TRANS 229

PECHE 215
RECH 231
JAI 564
ENER 248
MI 441
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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council

No. prev. doc.: 13528/15
No. Cion doc.: COM(2015) 366 final

Subject: European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP)
- Endorsement by the European Council

1. In its conclusions of 20 December 2013, the European Council invited the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, to elaborate an EU Strategy for the Alpine Region¹.
2. Based on a Commission Communication on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region², a Friends of the Presidency Working Party on macro-regional strategies examined in September and October 2015 draft conclusions on the European Union Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP).

¹ EUCO 217/13.

² Doc. 10972.

3. The Council adopted these conclusions on 27 November 2015³.
4. According to Art. 2(31) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 (the so-called 'Common Provisions Regulation'), macro-regional strategies need to be endorsed by the European Council⁴.
5. The previous three macro-regional strategies for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the Adriatic and Ionian Region were all endorsed by the European Council⁵.
6. In order to adhere to Art. 2(31) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, and, consequently, to allow for projects set up under EUSALP to benefit from support by the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds, the Permanent Representatives' Committee should recommend to the Council
 - to agree to send the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region, as set out in in the Council conclusions adopted on 27 November 2015⁶, for endorsement to the next meeting of the European Council, and
 - to invite the European Council to reflect the endorsement of this Strategy in its minutes on that meeting.

³ Doc. 14613/15.

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

Art. 2(31) reads as follows: "*macro-regional strategy means an integrated framework endorsed by the European Council which may be supported by the ESI Funds among others, to address common challenges faced by a defined geographical area relating to Member States and third countries located in the same geographical area which thereby benefit from strengthened cooperation contributing to achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion;*"

⁵ Cf. EUCO 15265/1/09 REV 1, EUCO 23/1/11 REV 1 and EUCO 169/14.

⁶ Doc. 14613/15.