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Subject: Council Conclusions on "AMICI"

Delegations will find attached the Council conclusions on "AMICI", as adopted by the Council on 15 December 2014.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON "AMICI"**Foreign Affairs Council, 15 December 2014**

1. Against the background of regional developments in the past few years in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood and the necessity for political and economic reforms and respect for the rule of law, the Council highlights the need for greater co-ordination in investment-related programmes and enhanced support for policy dialogue and regional cooperation aiming at inclusive economic growth, private sector development and job creation.
2. In this context, the Council welcomes the successful completion of the mapping/stocktaking exercise on ongoing projects and operations in the region and existing coordination mechanisms, which cover resources managed by the European Commission, and those from EU Member States and European Financial Institutions. The Council endorses the key findings and proposals of the mapping/stocktaking exercise.
3. The Council invites the High Representative/Vice President and the European Commission, within their respective competences, to pursue the Southern Mediterranean Investment Coordination initiative (AMICI). This initiative will be fully in line with European Neighbourhood Policy principles and will not create any duplications but will operate within the existing institutional framework. It will also take into account initiatives such as the Deauville Partnership. . The aim is to optimise the policy dialogue among relevant actors and donors in order to support the Southern partner countries in a more effective way, and provide more targeted investments in the region with a greater socio-economic impact in line with European and partners' priorities.

4. Regular coordination will be initiated at country level, where feasible, in the framework of Joint Programming, to be followed up during the implementation phase through the local EU development counsellors meetings, and at EU Member States level, through the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Committee and in the framework of the Neighbourhood Investment Facility. It will also include a regional and international dialogue, involving the European Commission, the EEAS, Member States, European Financial Institutions, the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), partner countries, International Financial Institutions and other donors, as appropriate. The Council notes the important role that the UfM and its Secretariat can play in this respect, notably by facilitating the dialogue at sectorial level.

It is planned that the first plenary meeting takes place in the first semester of 2015.

5. The Council invites the High Representative/Vice President and the European Commission to review annually the progress made and the functioning of the AMICI initiative as a part of the ENI implementation report.