



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Brussels, 5 December 2013  
17372/13  
(OR. en)  
PRESSE 535

## **Council approves LIFE Programme**

The Council today<sup>1</sup> adopted a regulation establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE Programme) for the period 2014 - 2020 ([PE-CONS 70/13, 16103/13 ADD1](#)).

The budget for the whole period is set at EUR 3.4 billion in current prices. The LIFE Programme is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and climate action projects throughout the EU. It will contribute to sustainable development and to the achievement of the objectives and targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the 7<sup>th</sup> Union Environmental Action Programme and other relevant EU environment and climate strategies and plans.

The programme creates two sub-programmes, one for Environment, covering three priority areas: environment and resource efficiency; nature and biodiversity; and environmental governance and information; and one for Climate Action, covering the following areas: climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation; and climate governance and information.

The programme creates a new category of projects, jointly funded integrated projects which operate on a large territorial scale and aim to implement environmental and climate policy and to better integrate them into other policies. In addition, it establishes eligibility and award criteria and project selection.

The programme is open to the participation of third countries and provides for activities outside the Union or in overseas countries and territories to be founded under specific conditions. It also provides a framework for cooperation with relevant international organisations.

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<sup>1</sup> At a meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, without discussion.

# **P R E S S**

In June 2017 the Commission will submit an external and independent mid-term evaluation report and by December 2023 an ex-post evaluation report covering the implementation and results of the LIFE Programme.

The regulation will apply from 1 January 2014.

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