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"I" ITEM NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)

No. Cion doc.: COM(2015) 366 final
No. prev. doc.: 10972/15

Subject: EU Alpine Strategy - organisation of work in the Council
- Information note

1. The European Council of 19/20 December 2013 invited the European Commission, working with Member States, to draw up an EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) by June 2015, building on the solid background of cooperation in the Region. On 29 July 2015, the Commission adopted the *Communication on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region*¹.

¹ COM(2015) 366 final, ST 10972/15.

2. A Friends of the Presidency (FoP) working party on macro-regional strategies is needed to be convened in order to examine the Communication on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region and to produce draft Council Conclusions to reflect the views of the Council and to give political guidance for further work and implementation of the strategy. The draft Council Conclusions on the Communication on the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region will aim at endorsing the Strategy and giving impulse to its swift and prompt implementation in policy areas such as economic growth and innovation, mobility and connectivity and environment and energy.

The composition of the FoP Working Party will be Brussels-based for reasons of flexibility and in accordance with previous practices of similar FoP working parties such as the FoP on the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy (EUBSRS), the FoP on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the FoP on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR).

3. The FoP Working Party will not have interpretation.
4. All Member States are invited to participate in the work of the FoP working party.
5. The indicative dates of the FoP meetings for the preparation of the draft Council Conclusions on the *EU Strategy for the Alpine Region* are as follows: 24 and 30 September 2015. At this stage, it is planned to submit the relevant draft Council Conclusions to COREPER II on 21 October and to the General Affairs Council meeting on 17 November 2015.
