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(OR. en)

PRESSE 66
PR CO 66

OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3657th Council meeting

General Affairs

Cohesion

Brussels, 30 November 2018

President

Elisabeth Köstinger
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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

- ¹
- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
 - Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
 - Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Cohesion policy after 2020

The Council discussed the legislative package for cohesion policy for the period 2021-2027. Ministers outlined their views on the main issues regarding the future of cohesion policy after 2020. They focused and gave political guidance on three issues reflected in a [discussion paper](#) prepared under the responsibility of the presidency:

- the future scope and nature of partnership agreements,
- the Commission proposal for a mandatory re-programming in 2025 ('mid-term review'), based on the 2024 country-specific recommendations, and
- the 'architecture' of the Interreg Regulation, notably the five new components proposed.

A majority of delegations supported the presidency's suggestions concerning a mandatory Partnership Agreement, the duration of programming and the nature of the mid-term review, and territorial cooperation.

Ministers also took note of the progress achieved in examining the package of five regulations:

- the Common Provisions Regulation,
- the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund Regulation,
- the European Social Fund Plus Regulation,
- the European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) Regulation, and
- the European Cross-Border Mechanism Regulation.

Their political guidance will serve as a basis for further work at expert level.

The Council started discussions on the cohesion package immediately after its publication. Discussions at technical level have focused mainly on the Common Provisions Regulation. Three thematic blocks have been examined in detail: (1) programming and strategic planning, (2) management and control, and (3) enabling conditions and performance framework.

The aim of the Austrian presidency is to achieve as much progress as possible on these blocks and agree, if possible, on the Council's negotiating mandate on some or all of these blocks by the end of the year. The Austrian presidency also intends to agree, if possible, on the Council's position on the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund Regulation.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED
