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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

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Subject: Council conclusions on including the Republic of North Macedonia in EUSAIR

Delegations will find in Annex the Council conclusions on including the Republic of North Macedonia in EUSAIR, as adopted by the General Affairs Council at its meeting on 9 April 2019.

Council conclusions on including the Republic of North Macedonia in EUSAIR

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

(1) RECALLING the conclusions of the Council of 29 September 2014¹ which endorsed the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR) on the basis of the Commission's Communication of 17 June 2014²;

(2) CONSIDERING the Catania Declaration of 24 May 2018 where the Adriatic and Ionian Council/EUSAIR Ministerial Meeting accepted the request put forward by North Macedonia to become the ninth Participating Country of the Adriatic and Ionian Initiative, while inviting the Council of the European Union and the European Commission to undertake all necessary steps to include North Macedonia in the EUSAIR;

(3) CONSIDERING the letter of 5 October 2018 from the four EUSAIR EU member states (Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia) to the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU asking it to launch the procedure in the Council for the inclusion of North Macedonia in the EUSAIR, and NOTING the Austrian Presidency's reply of 6 December 2018 as well as Commissioner Cretu's positive reply in her letter of 20 November 2018;

A. WELCOMES and ACCEPTS the request put forward by the countries participating in the EUSAIR to include the Republic of North Macedonia in the EUSAIR;

B. INVITES the Commission to take the necessary steps to include North Macedonia in the EUSAIR and to submit an accordingly amended Strategy to the Council.

¹ doc. 13503/14

² doc. 10675/14