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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3827th Council meeting

General Affairs

Cohesion issues

Brussels, 18 November 2021

President **Zvonko Černač**
Slovenian Minister for Development and European
Cohesion Policy

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- 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

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Council conclusions on San Marino

The Council approved conclusions on the inclusion of the Republic of San Marino in the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR). This is a macro-regional strategy endorsed by the European Council in 2014 and has been the only strategy with new countries wanting to join it in the past few years.

San Marino recently put forward a request to join the EUSAIR and all nine participating countries responded positively to it.

On 15 June 2021, the four EU members of the Adriatic and Ionian Region - Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia - asked the Portuguese presidency of the Council of the EU to launch the procedure for the inclusion of the Republic of San Marino in the EUSAIR.

The European Commission will now amend the strategy to include the Republic of San Marino and submit it to the Council. All member states participating in the EUSAIR particularly welcomed the inclusion of San Marino.

[Conclusions on the inclusion of San Marino in EUSAIR](#)

[EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region](#)

Cohesion policy as one of the most effective policies for achieving key Union objectives

The Council held a debate on the contribution of cohesion policy programmes to recovery, competitive sustainability, the green and digital transitions, resilience and economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Ministers discussed the challenges and opportunities in the coming years, focusing on issues reflected in a presidency background paper.

In particular, they addressed two questions:

- How can cohesion policy be combined with other EU instruments to further reduce development disparities and enhance resilience in the medium and long term?
- How can the different needs of individual regions and territories be properly addressed and the implementation of EU funds be brought closer to beneficiaries and citizens?

The view was expressed that the fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic poses an enormous challenge to the territorial cohesion of the EU.

European cohesion funds significantly contribute to reducing regional development disparities in the EU and the member states.

Ministers stressed that making the EU as a whole stronger and more resilient will only work if no region is left behind.

To achieve a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery which supports the green and digital transitions, member states should make the best use of the opportunities provided by the massive financial package of Next Generation EU resources and the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework.

In this regard, ministers discussed the effective implementation and coordination of the remaining 2014-2020 cohesion funding, the REACT-EU initiative, the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and the new 2021-2027 cohesion policy allocations, including the Just Transition Fund.

[Presidency background paper](#)

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen: transposition of UN listing

The Council adopted an implementing decision implementing Decision (CFSP) 2014/932 and an implementing regulation implementing Regulation (EU) 1352/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen.

The implementing decision and regulation transpose the decision dated 9 November 2021 of the Security Council Committee to add three persons to the list of persons subject to restrictive measures in view of the situation in Yemen.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

COVID-19: Council adds Indonesia to the list of countries for which travel restrictions should be lifted

Following a review under the recommendation on the gradual lifting of the temporary restrictions on non-essential travel into the EU, the Council updated the list of countries, special administrative regions and other entities and territorial authorities for which travel restrictions should be lifted. In particular, Indonesia was added to the list. ([Press release, 13995/21](#)).

COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL

The European partnership on metrology: Council adopts decision

The Council adopted a decision on the involvement of the European Union in the European partnership on metrology. The partnership is one of the priority areas in the package of proposals for institutionalised European partnerships under Horizon Europe. ([Press release, PE-CONS 69/21](#)).

FISHERIES

Accession to North Pacific Ocean convention

The Council agreed in principle on the decision to accede to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fisheries Resources in the North Pacific Ocean and agreed to send the decision to the European Parliament for its consent. [13555/21 + ADD 1, [12617/21](#) + [ADD 1](#)]

SFPA with Greenland and Denmark

The Council adopted a decision on the conclusion of a Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement (SFPA) with Greenland and Denmark along with the relevant implementing protocol. [13554/21 + COR 2 + ADD 1, [6566/21](#)]
