



Brussels, 7 May 2021  
(OR. en)

8497/21

**LIMITE**

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PECHE 134**

**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	5544/21 + ADD 1
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of the negotiations on an agreement between the European Union and Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein on the future financial contributions of the EEA EFTA States to social and economic cohesion in the European Economic Area = adoption

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1. On 22 January 2021, the Commission submitted to the Council a recommendation for the adoption of the abovementioned Council Decision including an Annex containing draft negotiating directives.
2. The Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA) examined the recommendation between January and the beginning of May 2021, and agreed on 4 May 2021 to the negotiating directives.
3. Against this background, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council:

- a) adopt the above-mentioned Council Decision authorising the opening of the negotiations, as set out in doc. 8365/21 (finalised by the lawyer-linguists), as well as the negotiating directives as set out in its Addendum<sup>1</sup>;
- b) decide, in view of the nature and content of the negotiations, not to publish the Council Decision in the Official Journal of the European Union; and
- c) note that the European Parliament will be informed in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU, and that both the Council Decision and negotiating directives will be transmitted to the European Parliament.
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<sup>1</sup> 8365/21 ADD 1 EU RESTREINT/EU RESTRICTED.