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Subject: Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) 2018/1475 and (EU) No 375/2014
– Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of Council's reasons
– Outcome of the written procedure initiated by CM 2697/21

Delegations are informed that the written procedure, opened by CM 2697/21 of 14 April 2021 was completed on 20 April 2021 and that all delegations voted in favour of the adoption of the Council's position at first reading on the draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Solidarity Corps Programme and repealing Regulations (EU) 2018/1475 and (EU) No 375/2014, as set out in documents 14153/20 + COR 1 (hu) and the statement of reasons as set out in document 14153/20 ADD 1.

The required qualified majority has been reached. Therefore, the above position of the Council at first reading and the statement of the Council's reasons are adopted.

The statements by Hungary, Poland and the Commission are reproduced in the Annex to this CM.

The above statements will be included in the summary of acts adopted by the written procedure as statements to be entered in the Council minutes, in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

Statement by Hungary

Equality between women and men is enshrined in the Treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Hungary ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Hungarian national legal system in accordance with internationally binding human rights instruments and within the framework of fundamental values and principles of the European Union. For these reasons, Hungary interprets the concept of “gender” in the text of the Regulation as a reference to sex.

Statement by Poland on using “gender” and on the conditionality mechanism

Rzeczpospolita Polska rozumie „równość gender” jako odnoszącą się do równości kobiet i mężczyzn, stosownie do art. 2 i art. 3 TUE. Ponadto Rzeczpospolita Polska rozumie “gender” jako “płeć”, zgodnie z art. 10, art. 19 ust. 1 oraz art. 157 ust. 2 i 4 TFUE.

Rzeczpospolita Polska zauważa, że wskazany w motywie 64 projektu rozporządzenia mechanizm warunkowości, aktualnie jest przedmiotem skargi Rzeczpospolitej Polskiej do TSUE jako dublujący procedurę z art. 7 TUE i naruszający tym samym ustanowioną w tym przepisie kompetencję Rady Europejskiej.

Statement by the European Commission

The European Commission takes note of the proposal of the European Parliament to consider “the number of local actors that apply the knowledge, the principles and the approaches learnt through the humanitarian activities in which the volunteer and the experts have participated” when supplementing the Regulation with provisions on the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation framework.