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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
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 (first reading) - Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons

1. On 12 June 2018 the Commission sent its proposal¹, based on Articles 165(4), 166(4) and 214(5) TFEU, to the Council.
2. The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion on 17 October 2018².
3. The Committee of the Regions delivered its opinion on 5 December 2018³.
4. The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading on 12 April 2019⁴.

¹ 9993/1/18 REV 1.

² OJ C 62, 15.2.2019, p. 201–206.

³ OJ C 86, 7.3.2019, p. 282–294.

⁴ 7351/19.

5. On 18 December 2020, the Permanent Representatives Committee confirmed the final compromise text on the above draft Regulation.
6. On 11 January 2021, the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education endorsed the final compromise text and by the means of a letter of 15 January 2021, the Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education informed the Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee that the European Parliament should, at second reading, approve the Council's position at first reading without amendments.
7. Due to the special circumstances, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision (EU) 2021/454⁵, that the Council uses the written procedure for the adoption of its 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 document 14153/20, and the statement of reasons as set out in document 14153/20 ADD 1.
8. The statements by Hungary, Poland and the Commission are set out in ADD 1 to this Note.

⁵ Council Decision (EU) 2021/454 of 12 March 2021 further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Decision (EU) 2020/430, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 89, 16.3.2021, p. 15–16).