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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (**first reading**)

- Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons

= Statement

Statement by Hungary

Hungary had been in favour of the swift adoption and implementation of the NDICI regulation, and has accepted several compromises throughout the negotiations, while also recognizing that most of our red lines have been addressed too. Hungary supports that tackling migration and enforcing cooperation on migration will play a key role in implementing the NDICI instrument.

However, Hungary continues to have serious concerns regarding legal migration, which is part of the NDICI regulation. When it comes to legal migration, it cannot be disregarded that the pandemic has brought about serious changes in the economic situation and the labour markets of the European Union. Worrying developments are characterized by the fact that hundreds of thousands of EU citizens have lost their jobs since the crisis began. The pandemic has caused an unprecedented health emergency in most countries of the world, highlighting the fact that the uncontrolled flow of masses – in addition to being an extremely serious security threat – also poses a serious health risk. Hungary's primary goal in this critical situation is to protect its own citizens, as well as to protect the European Union and all its inhabitants from an epidemiological point of view. Hungary has therefore made the decision not to support any forms of legal migration to the European Union in addition to illegal migration, underlining that legal migration is not the right solution to address economic and labour market challenges. Focus instead should be placed on providing decent work and living conditions to our own citizens. In light of the above position, and without wishing to block the adoption of the NDICI regulation, Hungary abstains from voting.

Concerning references to the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council Conclusions in the regulation, it must be pointed out that the third Gender Action Plan (GAP III) adopted by the European Commission and the High Representative on 25 November 2020, has not been endorsed by all Member States by means of Council Conclusions. As the third Gender Action Plan is based on a definition of gender which is not compatible with our national position, Hungary shall not take part in the implementation of the GAP III.