



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 19 April 2021

CM 2772/21

**Interinstitutional File:
2018/0207(COD)**

CODEC
JAI
INF
CADREFIN
FREMP
DROIPEN
COPEN
JUSTCIV

COMMUNICATION

WRITTEN PROCEDURE

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Subject: Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014

- Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons
- Outcome of the written procedure initiated by CM 2690/21

Delegations are informed that the written procedure, opened by CM 2690/21 of 14 April 2021 was completed on 19 April 2021 and that all delegations voted in favour of, except for Hungary and Poland that voted against, the adoption of the Council's position at first reading on the draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1381/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EU) No 390/2014 as set out in document 6833/20 + COR 1, and the statement of the Council's reasons as set out in the ADD 1 REV 2 + COR 1 to that document.

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 Bulgaria and Hungary 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 Bulgaria

The Republic of Bulgaria supports the aim of the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme to protect and promote rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties and in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, including by supporting civil society organisations, in order to sustain open, democratic and inclusive societies.

We acknowledge that combating all forms of violence against women and domestic violence should be supported by the Programme and that promoting prevention, protecting and supporting victims are priorities of the Union which help to fulfil individuals' fundamental rights.

At the same time, we note that the European Union has not acceded to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and this Convention is not part of the EU law. Therefore, any reference to the Istanbul Convention in the Regulation cannot be construed as implying any commitments for the EU and the Member states of the EU to ratify and implement the Convention.

Statement by Hungary

Hungary has expressed concerns as regards the draft regulations establishing the Rights and Values programme and the Justice programme for the period 2021-2027 several times during the negotiations and cannot support their final texts either.

Concerning the draft regulation establishing the Rights and Values programme for the period 2021–2027 and the draft regulation establishing the Justice programme for the period 2021-2027, Hungary is of the opinion that deficiencies as regards the legal basis (especially concerning the 'Union values' strand, as well as the 'Citizens engagement and participation' strand of the Rights and Values programme), the blurred scope not limited to the field of application of Union law (including references to international treaties not ratified by the Union), the focus on the support of one specific type of eligible entities (civil society organisations), instead of focusing on the substantial projects, as well as the reference to concepts which are not in line with the language of the Treaties would have made a substantial revision of the draft regulations necessary. Hungary is firmly committed to the protection of fundamental rights and European values, including the promotion of civil society and equal treatment.

Hungary maintains that basic requirements of legal certainty, principle of conferral and compliance with the Treaties in general shall be respected in order to prevent the impression that political and ideological views could have an impact, when defining the priorities of EU funding.
