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LIMITE

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| CADREFIN 281 | COEST 471         |
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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Council

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Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council  
establishing Global Europe  
- *Partial general approach*  
- *Statement by Bulgaria*

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Delegations will find attached the statement by Bulgaria to be included in the minutes of the Council.

**STATEMENT**  
**by the Republic of Bulgaria**  
**on the Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing**  
**the “Global Europe”**

The Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights. The country is and will remain dedicated to its human rights commitments.

At the same time, and without prejudice to its support for the compromise text of the Partial General Approach, Bulgaria reiterates its national position regarding some elements, included in the proposed Regulation establishing “Global Europe”:

In 2018 the Bulgarian Constitutional Court adopted a decision stating that the Council of Europe’s Convention on Preventing and Combatting Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (“Istanbul Convention”) promotes legal concepts related to the notion of “gender” that are incompatible with main principles of the Bulgarian Constitution. Any reference to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) will not be applicable with regard to the Republic of Bulgaria in accordance with Judgement № 13/2018 of the Constitutional Court. For the same reasons, Bulgaria reaffirms its position on the EU Global Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in External Action (GAP III) and does not consider itself bound by its application.

In view of the above-mentioned, the Republic of Bulgaria accepts the term “gender” (“пол“) to refer to the two biologically defined sexes “male/female”.