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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 as regards the role of gas storage for securing gas supplies ahead of the winter season ( <b>first reading</b> ) - Adoption of the legislative act = Statement

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**Statement by Slovakia**

Slovakia acknowledges the contribution of the measures proposed in the Regulation on gas storage towards increasing energy security of the Union and its Member States. The Regulation also increases the much-needed flexibility for the implementation of the gas storage obligation and provides useful clarification of its practical application, in particular for gas storages localized in other Member States.

However, the provisions in the recital 2 regarding the proposed REPowerEU Regulation and the declaration to progress quickly towards ending the import of gas from Russia are not acceptable for Slovakia for several reasons:

First, the link towards a proposal that is subject of an ongoing legislative process is highly unusual and can be seen as prejudging the results of its negotiation, while several key elements (e.g. liabilities resulting from cancelled long-term gas contracts and others) have to be clarified.

Second, the recital has no link towards any part of the legislative text itself and goes much beyond the aim of the Regulation on gas storage. Specifically, it cannot by any means determine or exclude the source of gas supply to fulfill the obligations under this Regulation.

Therefore, with regard to our consistent position towards the process of the phasing out of dependency on fossil fuels from Russia, which is in direct contradiction with recital 2 of this Regulation, Slovakia abstains from voting on this Regulation.

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