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'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Proposal for a Council Recommendation on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience - Statement by Hungary

Delegations will find in the annex a statement by Hungary on the Proposal for a Council Recommendation on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience.

**STATEMENT BY HUNGARY TO THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION
ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET) FOR SUSTAINABLE
COMPETITIVENESS, SOCIAL FAIRNESS AND RESILIENCE**

Statement by Hungary

Hungary declares regarding recital 9 of the Council Recommendation on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience that mentioning the Commission's Communication on a Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 (hereinafter referred to as "Strategy") is not acceptable for Hungary, because its text was not consulted with the Member States, neither negotiated in the Council. The Strategy uses and further expands the gender definition of the Istanbul Convention, which is not ratified by Hungary. Hungary states that equality between women and men is enshrined in the Treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Hungary ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Hungarian national legal system in accordance with internationally binding human rights instruments and within the framework of fundamental values and principles of the European Union. In this context, Hungary interprets the concept of "gender" in the text of the Council Recommendation as a reference to sex.
