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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 on European statistics on population and housing, amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 763/2008 and (EU) No 1260/2013 **(first reading)**
- Adoption of the Council's position at first reading and of the statement of the Council's reasons
= Statements

Statement by Bulgaria

The Republic of Bulgaria supports the added value of the Regulation on European statistics on population and housing in establishing a common legal framework for the development, production and dissemination of European statistics on population and housing and on modernising social statistics, with a view to better supporting EU policies related to demographic change, social cohesion and sustainable development.

The Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of fundamental rights, an important part of which is equality between men and women. We are and will remain committed to the principles and values of the European Union, as enshrined in the Treaties.

In this regard, Bulgaria notes the 2018 decision of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria, stating that the Council of Europe's Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence ('Istanbul Convention') promotes legal concepts related to the notion of gender that are incompatible with the main principles of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria.

In 2021, the Constitutional Court further clarified that the term 'sex' used in the Constitution, should, in the context of the national legal order, be understood in its biological sense only (men and women). In line with these decisions, the Republic of Bulgaria declares that it cannot accept concepts that aim to distinguish 'sex' as a biological category (men and women) from 'gender' as a social category and that it will interpret the use of the term 'gender' in the Regulation only in its biological sense.

Finally, in the text of the Regulation, the Republic of Bulgaria will accept the translation of the term 'gender' into Bulgarian only as 'sex' ('пол' in Bulgarian).

Statement by Czechia

The Czech Republic supports the general principles of the ESOP and welcomes a number of aspects of the compromise text. However, it is negatively affected by the speed of the end of negotiation process.

The Czech Republic remains convinced that the proposed wording of Articles 3, 5 and 11 are problematic for their future implementation in statistical practice.

The main concern of the Czech Republic is the application of population definition and modelling of unregistered part of the population without any reliable data sources. It is of the utmost importance to use administrative data sources centred around population register for producing timely statistics in line with the quality standards for the European official statistics. The challenging deadlines for providing data specified in the annex of this regulation can only be achieved if these can be based on sound and comprehensive administrative data sources.

The Czech Republic is of the opinion that the safeguard limiting the scope of this Regulation and setting its relation to the Regulation (EU) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common framework for European statistics relating to persons and households based on data at individual level collected from samples is formulated in the final compromise text only in relation to the existing content of the data collected under this Regulation and not generally to data collected based on samples of persons and households. This may lead to the future increase in burden for Member States and respondents.

Concerning ad-hoc data collections under Article 5, the Czech Republic believes that these will not pose extraordinary burden on Member States and that they will focus only on the use of existing administrative data sources.

The Czech Republic can support the final compromise text but with certain reservations stated above.

Statement by Hungary

Hungary recognises and promotes equality between men and women in accordance with the Fundamental Law of Hungary and the primary law, principles and values of the European Union, as well as commitments and principles stemming from international law. Equality between women and men is enshrined in the Treaties of the European Union as a fundamental value. In line with these and its national legislation, Hungary interprets the term 'gender' as a reference to 'sex' and the concept of 'gender equality' as 'providing equal chances and opportunities for women and men' in the *Draft Regulation (EU) .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council on European statistics on population and housing, amending Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 763/2008 and (EU) No 1260/2013*.