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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	12756/1/25 REV 1
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on Violence against women and domestic violence: prevention, early detection and intervention - <i>Approval</i> - <i>Statements</i>

Delegations will find in the annex a statement by the HU delegation and a statement by the BG delegation in relation to the abovementioned conclusions.

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY
ON THE COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: PREVENTION, EARLY DETECTION AND INTERVENTION

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 reference to ‘sex’ and the concept of ‘gender equality’ as ‘providing equal chances and opportunities for women and men’ in the *Council Conclusions on Violence against women and domestic violence: prevention, early detection and intervention*.

STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

Statement by the Republic of Bulgaria on the Council conclusions on violence against women and domestic violence: prevention, early detection and intervention

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

The Republic of Bulgaria is strongly committed to combatting violence against women and domestic violence. The Bulgarian government and civil society are actively engaged in preventing such forms of violence and in providing adequate protection and support to their victims. As an expression of this commitment, the country also supported the adoption of Directive (EU) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence as an important milestone in combating violence against women and girls, protecting victims and punishing offenders that will support the EU Member States to advance their national legislation.

The statement made upon the adoption of Directive (EU) 2024/1385 refers, amongst others, to the decision of the Bulgarian Constitutional Court adopted in 2018, 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 fundamental principles of the Bulgarian Constitution. Moreover, in 2021 the Constitutional Court further clarified that the notion of '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 light of the abovementioned and reaffirming its Statement made upon the adoption of Directive (EU) 2024/1385, the Republic of Bulgaria supports the adoption of the Conclusions, while declaring that it interprets all gender-related terminology strictly within the framework of the binary concept of sex.
