Council of the European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	11 November 2026
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION allowing Italy to deviate from the maximum growth rates of net expenditure as set by the Council under Regulation (EU) 2024/1263 (Activation of the national escape clause)

Document ST 14668/26 INIT, page 6, recital 6

For:

‘(6). In its Communication of 3 June 2026, the Commission announced that the scope of the national escape clause could be extended to accommodate the measures decided by the Member States after 28 February 2026 which strengthen the structural resilience of the European energy system and accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels (henceforth, "energy security measures")[5]. On 18 August 2026, the Commission published a Notice with further guidance to Member States on the scope and design of the additional flexibility for energy security measures[6]. *The measures should be nationally financed, with a direct budgetary impact, decided after 28 February 2026, targeted and cost-effective and designed to maximise impact in terms of their contribution to decarbonisation and/or energy savings and strengthen Europe's energy security.* In order to ensure that fiscal sustainability is not endangered, and to contain the necessary increase in fiscal adjustment in subsequent periods, the existing cap of 1.5% of GDP remains unchanged and applies to both the defence- and energy-related flexibility. Furthermore, the flexibility granted for energy security measures

should not exceed 0.3% of GDP per year, while the cumulative flexibility by end-2028 should not exceed 0.6% of GDP.

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[5] Communication from the Commission on the 2026 European Semester – Spring Package (COM(2026) 200 final).

[6] Commission Notice – Guidance to Member States on Broadening the Scope of the National Escape Clause for Energy Security, (OJ C, C/2026/4514, 18.8.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/4514/oj).',

read:

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