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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
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Subject:	Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand - Adoption

Statement by the Republic of Bulgaria

on the Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand

The Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights, including to the fight against discrimination. The country is and will remain dedicated to its human rights commitments.

In 2018, the Bulgarian Constitutional Court adopted a decision stating that the notion of gender as a social construct is incompatible with main principles of the Bulgarian Constitution.

In line with the above-mentioned Decision of the Constitutional Court and with the Bulgarian Constitution, the Republic of Bulgaria declares that expressions in the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand containing the term „gender” will be interpreted as referring to women and men.

Statement by Hungary

to the Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and New Zealand

Hungary recognizes and promotes equality between women and men 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. Furthermore, equality between women and men is enshrined as a fundamental value in the Treaties of the European Union, in particular in Article 2 of the TEU and Article 8 of the TFEU. In line with these and its national legislation, Hungary interprets the concept of “gender” as reference to “sex” and the concept of “gender equality” as reference to the “equality between women and men”.
