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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL implementing the bilateral safeguard clauses of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the EU-Mercosur Interim Trade Agreement for agricultural products **(first reading)**  
- Adoption of the legislative act  
= Statement

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**Hungary has requested that the following statement be entered in the Council minutes**

Given the significant sensitivities associated with the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement and the Interim Trade Agreement, Hungary deems it necessary to lay down procedures to guarantee the timely and effective implementation of safeguard measures for agricultural products. However, the Commission's proposal implementing the bilateral safeguard clause of the EU-Mercosur Agreement does not provide sufficient protection for smaller Member States, including Hungary.

The proposed Regulation does not include the possibility to address market disruptions at regional level, as the Commission will examine the existence of serious injury or threat thereof only at EU level. This creates a situation where Member States with smaller markets, including Hungary, will not be able to enforce their rights under the Regulation.

The bilateral safeguard clause included in the EU-Mercosur Agreement and the proposed Regulation does not in itself provide adequate protection against cheaper imports from Mercosur countries, therefore additional guarantees are necessary.

Hungary made various proposals to improve the effectiveness of the Regulation; however, these proposals were not taken into account.

As the proposed Regulation does not address our concerns in relation to the EU-Mercosur Agreement and does not provide adequate protection for our agriculture sector, Hungary cannot support the adoption of the Regulation without modifications.