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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards a verification procedure related to infringements of rules on the protection of personal data in the context of elections to the European Parliament **(first reading)** - Adoption of the legislative act - Statement

Statement by Hungary

Hungary is strongly committed to the European values enshrined in the Treaties and forming part of the European *aquis*. The protection of these fundamental rights, such as the rule of law, freedom of association, freedom of expression and information, the right to vote and to stand as a candidate at elections to the European Parliament are the cornerstones of the democratic system the EU is built on.

Hungary appreciates the efforts made by the co-legislators during the trilogues aiming to create a legal framework that ensures free and fair legal environment for the future European elections. Therefore Hungary can accept the final outcome of these negotiations.

Nevertheless, Hungary would also like to express its view that the final compromise does not fully guarantee the objective of the proposal, hence there is still a risk that the agreed mechanism will not guarantee the full compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and the respect of the procedural rights of the actors concerned. Hungary considers that certain provisions of the agreed text are lacking legal certainty (legal basis, sufficient consideration of the GDPR, detailed procedural guarantees in the process of the committee of eminent persons). Moreover, other provisions should have been included *expressis verbis* in the final text (e.g. concrete reference to the fact that the European Authority can exclusively proceed based on the decision of the competent national authorities in the Member States and avoid the possibility of collecting information based on "other reasonable grounds").