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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State (recast) **(first reading)** - Adoption of the legislative act = Statement

Statement by Hungary

Hungary would like to emphasize its appreciation for the efforts of the Presidencies to find an appropriate political compromise on the recast.

Nevertheless, we believe it is essential that Member States should be able to decide freely who can enter their territory to work, under what conditions and with what admission procedures, taking into account different economic, geographical, cultural and social realities.

Unfortunately, on some key elements we are too far away from the Council's mandate and the compromise text does not give enough room for manoeuvre to Member States, which in some situations even jeopardises the practical enforceability. National competences should be maintained to ensure that decisions can respond flexibly to labour market needs, but this spirit has been sacrificed in favour of a quick compromise.

A reasonable agreement has been reached between the Member States on the compulsory period of first employer and the permitted period of unemployment, which protects national employers and reduces internal security risks. We consider that the amendments proposed by the Parliament on Article 11 undermine these achievements.

While acknowledging the efforts of the Presidencies, for the reasons mentioned above Hungary cannot support the adoption.