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'A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on a framework for the issuance, verification and acceptance of interoperable COVID-19 vaccination, test and recovery certificates (EU Digital COVID Certificate) to facilitate free movement during the COVID-19 pandemic **(first reading)** - Adoption of the legislative act = Statements

Statement by Austria

As Austria has stated in the deliberations for the Council Position on the Digital Green Certificate (DGC – now EU Digital COVID Certificate), it is important that bilateral agreements on the mutual recognition of such certificates among Member States are possible also in case the Regulation on the DGC will not fully enter into force before the summer of 2021.

The use of a trust framework digital infrastructure (gateway), which is foreseen in the draft Regulation will be important as to avoid administrative burden due to the need for creating an interim trust framework digital infrastructure (gateway).

In addition, it is Austria's understanding that there will be no additional costs for the Member States (except for those expenses required nationally for the implementation of the Regulation).

Statement by Bulgaria

Bulgaria has consistently supported that rapid antigen tests (RATs), which are considered appropriate and reliable for the test certificate (Art. 3 lit. b) of the final compromise text), should be also part of the "recovery certificate" (Art. 3 lit. c).

In order to avoid discrimination and in view of the fact that RATs are considered equivalent in the diagnosis of COVID-19, subject to certain criteria and according to the definition of ECDC, Bulgaria considers that among the first implementation steps of the Regulation should be the inclusion of RATs in the recovery certificate.