



Council of the
European Union

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COMPET 537
ENV 582
EDUC 224
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JAI 735
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NOTE

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

No. prev. doc.: 9782/23 - COM(2023) 617 final

Subject: Recommendation for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on the 2023 National Reform Programme of Hungary and delivering a Council opinion on the 2023 Convergence Programme of Hungary
- Statement by Hungary

Delegations will find attached a statement by Hungary in relation to the abovementioned recommendation.

Statement by Hungary

Hungary acknowledges the central role of CSRs in the EU multilateral surveillance framework. This year the timeframe at the disposal of Member States on the assessment of the recommendations were extremely limited. The overstretched procedure challenges not only the multilateral character of the process but also the guarantees of national ownership. At the same time, Hungary expresses its concerns regarding the lack of fact-based, substantial policy dialogue in this year's procedure.

The wording of the country specific recommendations must not be overly prescriptive. Hungary stresses that according to the common understanding the recommendations would need to be well grounded, based on correct assessment determine the objectives and leave appropriate room to choose the policy means to meet the agreed objectives. It could also be expected from such a comprehensive document to acknowledge properly the progress made in the field of former recommendations, thereby balancing the newly set targets with the development path taken.

This year's Semester process took place at the detriment of the consistency and quality of horizontal and in-depth assessments. We are therefore convinced that these issues need to be addressed without delay but no later than the start of the next Semester cycle. Hungary considers that the procedure and the timeframe of the next cycle need to be negotiated and set well in advance in the Councils concerned.

Finally we find it critical that despite Hungary's limited access to new EU funds and no access to RRF resources at all, Hungary made significant progress in the implementation of the vast majority of commitments and reforms undertaken in our RRP. However, their implementation proved to be slower and sometimes partial due to the delayed funding from the RRF.