



Council of the
European Union

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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 amending Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards the re-commitment of the remaining amounts committed to support the implementation of the Council Decisions (EU) 2015/1523 and (EU) 2015/1601 or the allocation thereof to other actions under the national programmes **(first reading)**

- Adoption of the legislative act
- Statements

Council Declaration

The Council declares that its agreement on the re-commitment or transfer of the remaining amounts under the Asylum, Migration and Integration fund national programmes, which exceptionally involves an extension of the de-commitment period and the re-commitment of amounts, is due to the very particular and exceptional circumstances regarding the implementation of relocation decisions and will not constitute a precedent as it is limited to this specific case concerning AMIF.

Statement by Hungary

Tackling the migration problem at its core requires a new approach as set out by the June 2018 Conclusions of the European Council in order to definitively break the business model of the smugglers, eliminate the incentives to embark on perilous journeys and stem the illegal inflow of migrants.

Dedicating at least 20% of the recommitted amounts once again to relocation and resettlement is not only contrary to the main objectives set out by the European Council, but would result in similarly low efficiency of implementation and could also serve as a pull factor. Hungary also wishes to reconfirm the strictly voluntary nature of relocation and resettlement in accordance with the June 2018 Conclusions of the European Council; the suggested approach of earmarking 20% of the recommitted amount to such actions therefore also seems to contradict the voluntary nature of these and what has been agreed by all the Member States. Furthermore, it imposes a de facto financial penalty for those Member States, which – as their free choice of policy – do not implement relocations or resettlements.

While there is a financing gap in the field of external dimension, we cannot miss the opportunity of dedicating as much available resources as possible to catering for these needs. Hungary is therefore determined to continue and reinforce the new approach to prevent a return to the uncontrolled flows of 2015 and to further stem illegal migration on all existing and emerging routes. Accordingly, Hungary recalls the need for complete flexibility in allocating the remaining amounts.

Hungary therefore declares that it does not support the proposal, especially the suggested approach of allocating at least 20% of the recommitted amounts to actions under the national programmes for the transfer of applicants for or beneficiaries of international protection, for resettlement or other ad-hoc humanitarian admissions, as well as other solidarity measures in relation to disembarkations in the EU following search and rescue operations.

Statement by Finland

Finland would like to declare that the Council Decisions (EU) 2015/1523 and (EU) 2015/1601 required actions in the field of relocation, and that the funding from Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) was originally allocated for the implementation of these Decisions. Finland regrets that the original purposes of the Council decisions were not respected by all Member States.
