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

Subject: Draft DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on a European Year of Skills 2023 **(first reading)**
- Adoption of the legislative act
= Statement

Statement by Hungary

Hungary is committed to fully support the aims of the European Year of Skills 2023 initiative with regard to the re- and upskilling of people and recognize that a skilled workforce is crucial to ensuring just green and digital transitions. We acknowledge that the final compromise text set out in document 7219/23+ADD 1 is the result of long-lasting negotiations, due to certain elements in the text which are not in line with our position on legal migration in general, Hungary abstains from voting. We regret to note that certain provisions of the decision on legal migration do not reflect sufficiently the need to respect national competences as set out in Article 79(5) TFEU, according to which the Member States' right to determine volumes of admission of third-country nationals in order to seek work, shall not be affected. In this context, Hungary does not consider "Attracting people from third-countries", i.e. encouragement of legal migration on the Union level as an appropriate and legally sound tool to resolve the Union's skills and labour shortage.

Furthermore Hungary recognizes and promotes equality between men and women in accordance with the Fundamental Law of Hungary, and the primary law, principles and values of the European Union, as well as commitments and principles stemming from the international law. Furthermore, equality between women and men is enshrined in the Treaties of the European Union as a fundamental value. In line with these and its national legislation, Hungary interprets the concept of 'gender' as reference to 'sex' and the concept of 'gender convergence' as 'convergence between women and men' in the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European Year of Skills 2023.
