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European Union

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

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Subject: Council position on draft amending budget No 1 to the general budget for 2023: Technical adjustments stemming from the political agreements reached on several legislative proposals, including with respect to REPowerEU, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the Union Secure Connectivity programme  
– *Statement by Austria and Denmark*

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Delegations will find in the ANNEX the joint statement by Austria and Denmark.

**Joint statement by Austria and Denmark on the draft amending budget No 1/2023**

Austria and Denmark recall the July 2020 EUCO conclusions on the MFF stating that “*In the context of a Union of 27 Member States, all EU institutions should adopt a comprehensive and targeted approach for considering the number of staff and are invited to reduce administrative expenditure where possible. (...) All EU institutions, bodies, agencies and their administrations should conduct a regular staff screening that ensures the optimisation of staff resources at the current level*”.

We regret that the Commission in the draft amending budget No 1 to the general budget 2023 has moved away from adhering to the principle of stable staffing, and call on the Commission to provide an adequate strategy to compensate for this increase in the future.

For this reason, Austria and Denmark will abstain from voting on the draft amending budget No 1 to the general budget 2023.