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From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

Subject: Draft Council Conclusions on Improving the working and living conditions
of seasonal and other mobile workers

Delegations will find attached a statement from Romania.

Statement from Romania

Romania welcomes the approval of the *Council Conclusions on Improving the working and living conditions of seasonal and other mobile workers*, which reflect the essential role of these categories of workers in the European Union and underline the importance of protecting them.

While the EU seasonal workers perform critical activities in the Member States and support the functioning of the Single Market, they have proven to represent a category at greater risk. In this context, they deserve a stronger protection and effective enforcement of their rights throughout the Union. Both their crucial contribution and their vulnerabilities have been strongly emphasised during the health crisis, which has unfolded since the beginning of this year.

Approaching this issue at the European level is timely and Romania welcomes the strong emphasis on the necessity to fully apply and enforce the EU and national legislation on working and living conditions and social security coordination. This would adequately protect seasonal and other mobile workers, especially in times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic. We are confident that the approval of these Conclusions will bring new impetus at the EU and national level.

In our view, the text could have benefited further from the explicit reference to domestic caregivers, as they provide essential personal and household care services but are often confronted with discriminatory treatment and precarious working conditions. We consider, nevertheless, that the Council Conclusions apply as well to this category of workers. Furthermore, Romania would have preferred a more ambitious language when calling for setting specific requirements for temporary work and recruitment agencies, together with additional elements on the information list they have to provide to workers.

Having regard to the above, we consider important to keep this subject high on the European agenda in the forthcoming period. We are also looking forward to the Commission's assessment of the areas where the protection of seasonal workers should be enhanced and its study aimed at the challenges they face and the subsequent policy recommendations.