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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Council Decision inviting Member States to accept, in the interest of the European Union, the amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) contained in the Annex to Resolution WHA77.17 and adopted on 1 June 2024 <i>- Adoption</i> <i>- Statement by Slovakia</i>

Statement of the Slovak Republic on the Council Decision on the amendments to the International Health Regulations

The Slovak Republic fully acknowledges the importance of the commitments arising from its EU membership and highly appreciates common efforts in the area of health, which are crucial for the well-being of EU citizens.

However, the Slovak Republic must express its disappointment with the proposed Council Decision on accepting the revision of the International Health Regulation (IHR).

Firstly, given that the revision of the IHR from June 2024 will have a significant impact on national measures and capacities, we are convinced that a more complex and thorough analysis of this Decision should have taken place.

Secondly, we would like to emphasize that under the Article 61 and 62 of the IHR (2005), each Member State has the right to decide on making reservation to or rejection of any revision of the IHR within the stipulated time frame.

Thirdly, in this context, we are deeply concerned about discrepancy in relation to the existing possibility, granted by the WHO, to make reservation or rejection on one side and the legally binding character of the Council Decision on the other side.

Lastly, we have to reiterate with regret that the presented Council Decision lacks a clear division of the EU and national competences as requested numerous times at the Working Party by various Member States.

For above - mentioned reasons, the Slovak Republic has decided to reject the proposed Council Decision.
