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'A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: Joint text on the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2026

- *Statements*
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Delegations will find in the annex a joint statement by Austria, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden, as well as a unilateral statement by Hungary.

Statement by Austria, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden
on the European Union's budget 2026

The EU budget should be based on sound budgetary principles, maintain sufficient margins and safeguard special instruments only for genuinely unforeseen circumstances.

The agreement on the 2026 budget makes excessive use of special instruments in various headings, with very limited redeployments. It also includes significant increases in the administrative expenditure as well as increases in staff levels. In our opinion, the EU budget cannot ignore the wider context, in which most national budgets are under strain or faced with substantial consolidation measures.

We therefore believe that the agreement on the EU budget for 2026 is not in line with the principle of prudent budgeting.

Statement by Hungary
to the agreement on the 2026 annual budget of the European Union

Hungary abstains on the agreement on the 2026 annual budget of the European Union.

While acknowledging the importance of ensuring the continuous functioning of the Union's programmes and institutions, Hungary considers it essential to record the following in relation to the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) and the Ukraine Support Instrument (USI).

Hungary supports all efforts aimed at launching substantive negotiations toward a sustainable and stable peace that guarantees the long-term security of the European continent. Hungary believes that with the ongoing peace negotiations, led by the United States, the EU also needs to adapt its policy-making.

In light of the above, and in line with its longstanding commitment to peace, Hungary does not support the establishment or financing of new Union instruments that contribute militarily to the war in Ukraine and risk undermining ongoing peace efforts. The scarce resources available for defense purposes need to be entirely allocated to the Union's own defense preparations, thereby directly ensuring the protection of EU citizens.

Consequently, and consistent with our previously stated position during the negotiations on the EDIP Regulation, Hungary cannot endorse the proposed allocation for the Ukraine Support Instrument within the 2026 budget.
