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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 4 June 2021  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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Subject: Values of the Union - Hungary - Article 7(1) TEU Reasoned Proposal -  
scope of the hearing of Hungary on 22 June 2021

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1. On 12 September 2018, the European Parliament adopted a Reasoned Proposal for a Council decision determining, pursuant to Article 7(1) of the TEU, the existence of a clear risk of a serious breach by Hungary of the values on which the Union is founded<sup>1</sup>.
2. The provisional agenda for the Council meeting (General Affairs) on 22 June 2021 includes an item "Values of the Union - Hungary - Article 7 (1) TEU Reasoned proposal - Hearing of Hungary in accordance with Article 7(1) TEU".
3. On 18 July 2019, the Council approved standard modalities for hearings referred to in Article 7(1) TEU<sup>2</sup>. These modalities set out that the substantive scope of the issues to be covered by a hearing shall be agreed by Coreper in keeping with the scope of the issues raised in the Reasoned Proposal triggering the procedure of Article 7(1) TEU.

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<sup>1</sup> 12266/1/18 REV1 + ADD1

<sup>2</sup> 10641/2/19 REV2

4. Hungary was heard by the Council for the first time on 16 September 2019 and this introductory hearing covered all the issues raised in the Reasoned Proposal by the European Parliament.
5. Hungary was heard by the Council a second time on 10 December 2019. The hearing focused on three issues: independence of the judiciary and of other institutions and the rights of judges; freedom of expression; academic freedom.
6. In view of the time that has elapsed since the latest hearing of Hungary and that significant developments may have taken place, it is suggested that the third hearing of Hungary on 22 June 2021 covers all the issues raised in the Reasoned Proposal of the European Parliament, in order for the Council to receive an up to date picture of the situation in the Member State in question.
7. In view of the above, Coreper is invited to agree that the issues to be covered by the hearing of Hungary on 22 June 2021 will be all those raised by the Reasoned Proposal of the European Parliament (12266/1/18 REV1).