Council of the European Union

Brussels, 15 June 2026
(OR. en, de)

10489/26
ADD 1 REV 1

Interinstitutional File:
2025/0555 (COD)

COMPET 763	ECOFIN 809
IND 412	COH 115
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CADREFIN 289	CULT 85
FIN 873	CYBER 289
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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Regulation establishing European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), including specific programme for defence research and innovation *- Partial general approach* = Statement by Austria

Austria has requested that the following statement be entered in the Council minutes.

Statement for the minutes by Austria

European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) - partial general approach

Coreper 2 | 14.6.2026

Austria acknowledges that every state is free to choose its own energy mix, as a matter of national competence. However, Austria maintains that nuclear energy is not a sustainable, economically viable or safe technology for Europe's future. In Austria's view, resources from the Union budget should not be used for investments in nuclear power, including the construction of new nuclear power plants, lifetime extensions for existing facilities or the decommissioning of nuclear installations.

Austria remains willing to continue with the negotiations and supports the partial general approach on the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), on the understanding that the Fund will neither promote nor finance the construction or decommissioning of nuclear power plants.