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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	8274/21
No. Cion doc.:	7485/21 + ADD 1
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community as regards certain administrative and staff matters of the Transport Community – Adoption

INTRODUCTION

1. On 12 April 2021, the Commission transmitted the above-mentioned proposal to the Council.
2. The proposal aims at formulating an EU position in view of submitting to the Transport Community's Regional Steering Committee for adoption a set of administrative rules on
 - a) travel expenses of external participants of meetings of the Transport Community;
 - b) relocation costs of staff; and
 - c) contributions by the Transport Community to staff's health, unemployment, pension and disability insurance.

3. The Transport Community, with its seat in Belgrade, has become operational in September 2019. Rules on financial management and accounting, recruitment, staff duties and obligations, and missions have already been adopted.
4. The draft rules attached to the proposal intend to fill some of the remaining gaps. The rules should offer at the same time practical instruments for the administration, and working conditions that are attractive for staff and participants coming from the region and also from Member States, having in mind the rules applied in other international public entities.

WORK WITHIN THE COUNCIL PREPARATORY BODIES

5. After presentation and discussion, in an informal meeting of the Working Party on Transport - Intermodal Questions and Networks on 10 February 2021, of a concept note¹ for the meeting of the Regional Steering Committee on 12 February 2021, the informal meeting of the working party on 14 April 2021 examined the formal proposal. Delegations generally welcomed the proposal, noted that suggestions made during the discussion on the concept note had been taken into consideration, and made some technical comments.
6. Following an invitation for written comments², the General Secretariat circulated modified texts aiming at horizontal alignment with previous files.³ A further request for written comments by 30 April 2021⁴ produced no additional contributions from delegations.
7. The next meeting of the Regional Steering Committee is planned to take place on 20 May 2021, at which occasion a decision on the administrative rules, after adoption of the Union's position, is possible.

¹ doc. WK 1618/2021.

² doc. ST 7837/21.

³ doc. ST 7988/21 and 7989/21.

⁴ doc. ST 8274/21.

CONCLUSION

8. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited
 - to endorse the agreement reached at the level of the working group, and
 - to recommend that the Council adopt the Decision, as finalised by lawyer-linguists and set out in documents ST 8039/21 and 8040/21⁵, as an "A" item on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting.
9. The European Parliament will be informed of the adoption in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU.

⁵ The documents will be made available on 11 May 2021, afternoon.