



Council of the
European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
Subject: **Any other business**
Study on transport externalities
– information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached an information note prepared by the Commission on the above-mentioned subject for consideration under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 6 June 2019.

INFORMATION NOTE FROM THE COMMISSION

10 May 2019

At the TTE Council on 3 December 2018, the Commission presented first findings of a study on “Sustainable Transport Infrastructure Charging and Internalisation of Transport Externalities”. The study has now been finalised and the Commission would like to draw Member States’ attention to its importance for future debates on transport policy. The study notably assesses in detail the extent to which the "user pays" and "polluter pays" principles are implemented in the EU countries and in other advanced economies.

The full study is about to be published and will be composed of 5 self-standing reports. The updated “Handbook on external costs of transport” provides an estimation of the total, average and marginal external costs. The second report collects and analyses infrastructure costs and expenditures while the third focuses on transport related taxes and charges. The fourth analyses how such taxes and charges relate to the external and infrastructure costs, and the fifth summarises the findings of the previous four reports at EU level.

The study includes a detailed description of the methodologies, the input values, an assessment of the robustness of the results and provides a number of indicators showing different cost coverage ratios per different mode of transport and per Member State. Aviation and maritime are reflected but for reasons of data availability they are not assessed at country but rather at (air)port level, on the basis of a carefully selected sample.

In the run-up to the Council Ministers will also receive letters with more detailed information on key findings at EU level as well as for their respective countries.