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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Draft REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1153 and (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 **(first reading)** - Adoption of the legislative act = Statements

Statement by Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany welcomes the preliminary agreement reached between the institutions on 18 December 2023 on the revision of the Regulation on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and the swift adoption by the European Parliament on 24 April 2024. So that the Regulation can enter into force quickly, Germany is voting in favour of adopting the Regulation on the basis of the current text in the Council, but wishes to point out some shortcomings in the language versions that will require a corrigendum.

The provisions relating to ‘additional priorities’ have so far been translated very inconsistently in the individual language versions.

According to the English-language version, on which the trilogue negotiations were based, ‘attention shall be given’ by the Member States to the additional priorities. This is in line with the spirit of the trilogue negotiations and the political agreement reached: The ‘additional priorities’ are provided for as optional rather than mandatory priorities in addition to the binding requirements for the individual modes of transport contained in other articles of the Regulation.

In contrast, the German version, inter alia, is clearly more restrictive and requires the Member States to ‘give priority to’ the additional priorities. This could also be the case with other language versions.

To ensure a uniform application of the Regulation in all Member States, it is imperative that the translations into the various official languages be closely aligned with the English-language version that was originally negotiated and politically agreed.

The Federal Republic of Germany expects that, for those translations that significantly deviate from the original English-language version, the relevant technical corrections submitted by Germany and possibly also by other Member States will be made soon in the language versions concerned. With regard to additional priorities, this applies to the first sentence in Articles 20, 24, 28, 32, 35, 39 and 42.

As far as the German version is concerned, the Federal Republic of Germany has also identified further shortcomings in the translation. Provided that the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Austria are able to arrive at a common position on an improved German translation, the Federal Republic of Germany also expects a corresponding corrigendum to the German version.

Should other Member States also want to correct their language versions, they can count on Germany’s support provided their proposals are closely aligned with the original English-language version, thus ensuring a uniform application of the revised TEN-T Regulation.

Statement by Spain

On 18 December 2023, the European Parliament and the Council, under the Spanish Presidency, reached a provisional agreement on the revision of the Regulation on guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network.

On 24 April 2024, the text of the agreement was approved by the European Parliament plenary at first reading.

The Kingdom of Spain supports the text approved by the Parliament and its adoption by the Council.

However, as other delegations have noted, the Spanish authorities would point out that there are certain shortcomings or inaccuracies in the Spanish version which may lead to differences in legal interpretation in comparison with the English version, which was the version agreed politically.

The Spanish authorities therefore consider that, once the text is adopted, the versions in the various official languages need to be reviewed so that they correspond to the English version, in order to ensure uniform application in all Member States.

Statement by France

The French authorities welcome the provisional agreement on the revision of the Regulation on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T Regulation) reached between the European institutions on 18 December 2023 and its adoption by the European Parliament on 24 April 2024.

We support the approved text as well as the final adoption of the Regulation scheduled for the Council meeting of 30 May 2024 and its publication during the current legislative cycle.

However, we would draw attention to the decision made by the co-legislators to use a specific procedure to adopt the Regulation (procedure linked to exceptional circumstances as mentioned at the Coreper meeting on 10 April 2024), without corrigendum procedure during the current legislative cycle. The French authorities note that the Member States were not consulted, prior to final adoption, on the versions produced by the lawyer-linguists, and in particular the translations into the languages of the European Union.

The French authorities stress the operational, technical and legal importance of being able to assess the French-language version of the Regulation, as well as the versions in the other official languages of the European Union, in the light of the English-language version which served as the basis for the trilogue negotiations and which led to the adoption of the TEN-T Regulation. Following the examples given in Germany's statement, we would stress the possible shortcomings of the non-English language versions, which need to be rectified.

Insofar as several Member States evoke detrimental difficulties linked to the wording of translated versions of the TEN-T Regulation, the French authorities support Germany's statement specifying the importance of ensuring uniform application of the Regulation in all Member States. This is why it is essential that the translations in all the official languages are perfectly aligned with the English version initially negotiated and politically agreed.

The French authorities therefore request that the appropriate technical corrections necessary in the various language versions, initiated and desired by Member States including France, be made in good time.

Statement by Italy

Italy welcomes the preliminary agreement reached between the institutions on 18 December 2023 on the revision of the Regulation on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and its swift adoption by the European Parliament on 24 April 2024. Italy, therefore, votes in favour of adopting a Council Regulation on the basis of the English version of the text (PE-CONS 56/24), but wishes to make some comments on the language versions, which must be taken into account.

To ensure uniform application of the Regulation in all Member States, it is essential that the translations into the various official languages be fully aligned and consistent with the English version originally negotiated and agreed at the political level.

Italy expects that the adoption in the Council of all the various language versions will require further consideration and that corrections will be allowed in order to correct language versions that deviate from the English original, thus ensuring the uniform application of the revision of the TEN-T regulation.

Should other Member States also wish to correct their language versions, Italy may express its support, provided that their proposals are closely aligned with the original English version.

Statement by Portugal

Portugal welcomes the preliminary agreement reached between the institutions on 18 December 2023 on the revision of the Regulation on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and its adoption by the European Parliament on 24 April 2024. Portugal therefore votes in favour of adopting the Regulation on the basis of the English version of the current Council text (PE-CONS 56/24), but would also like to make some comments on the language versions that must be taken into account.

In order to ensure uniform application of the Regulation in all Member States, it is imperative that translations into the various official languages be fully aligned and consistent with the English version that was initially negotiated and politically agreed. Therefore, Portugal considers that the adoption in the Council of the various language versions will have to incorporate any corrigenda to correct the language versions deviating from the original English version.