Council of the European Union

Brussels, 13 July 2018
(OR. en)

10632/1/18
REV 1

Interinstitutional File:
2018/0151(NLE)

TRANS 296

'A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
No. prev. doc.:	10632/18 TRANS 296
No. Cion doc.:	9033/18 TRANS 206 + ADD 1
Subject:	Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of a Protocol amending the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement) by extending the possibility of accession to the Kingdom of Morocco – Adoption

1. On 16 May 2018 the Commission submitted to Council a proposal on the subject above.

2. Prior to this proposal, the Council on 4 December 2014 had authorised the Commission to negotiate, on the Union's behalf, a geographical extension of the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement) by allowing the accession of Morocco.[1]

3. The contracting parties to the Interbus Agreement met on 1 February, 23 June and 10 November 2017 to negotiate such an extension. On that last meeting, the negotiations were conclusive. During these negotiations, the Commission cooperated with the Special Committee created at the Council to this effect in accordance with the mandate.

[1] See documents ST 14892/1/14 REV 1 and 15601/14 + ADD 1 (EU RESTRICTED).

4. At the meeting of the Working Party on Land Transport on 12 June 2018, the proposal was endorsed. The DE delegation reiterated its position that, while not being against the idea of a geographical extension towards Morocco as such, it does not agree with an outcome of negotiations that involves expanding the custom and fiscal provisions of Article 9 of the Interbus Agreement under a purely transport-related legal base.

5. The Committee of Permanent Representatives confirmed the agreement on 13 July 2018; the DE delegation abstained.

6. In light of the above, Council is invited

– to adopt the Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of a Protocol amending the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement) by extending the possibility of accession to the Kingdom of Morocco, as set out in documents ST 9562/18 and 9688/18 which have been reviewed by lawyer-linguists.

The text of the decision including the draft protocol will be transmitted to the European Parliament for information in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU.