Council of the European Union

Brussels, 13 September 2024
(OR. en)

13228/24

Interinstitutional File: 2024/0210(NLE)

TRANS 390

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	13056/24 + ADD 1
No. Cion doc.:	12788/24 + ADD 1
Subject:	Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 16th General Assembly of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) – Adoption

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 19 August 2024, the Commission submitted to the Council the above-mentioned proposal.

2. The 16th session of the General Assembly of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) will be held in Berne, Switzerland, on 25 and 26 September 2024. At this year's agenda are, among other points, an update on the status of the Convention and OTIF membership, including China's application to become an Associate Member of OTIF, the envisaged adoption of OTIF's long-term strategy and several changes to the rules of procedure of OTIF.

3. OTIF has currently 51 Member States (48 States having voting rights), of which 25 are EU Member States. The Union has acceded to the Convention concerning OTIF in 2011 by virtue of Council Decision 2013/103/EU of 16 June 2011.

II. WORK AT THE PREPARATORY BODY

4. The Working Party on Land Transport examined the Commission proposal at its meeting on 5 September 2024. Several delegations contested the assignment of competences and voting rights for some of the agenda items for the General Assembly. They also requested an update to the position regarding agenda item 5 ('Status of the Convention and OTIF membership'), to take into account recent developments. Finally, they doubted the appropriateness of including in the Council Decision the position on the election of the Secretary-General of OTIF.

5. Based on the comments made by the delegations during and after the meeting, the Presidency amended the draft decision[1]. In its meeting on 12 September 2024, the Working Party endorsed the Presidency compromise.

III. CONCLUSION

6. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the draft Decision as set out in the document 13230/24, revised by the lawyer-linguists, and its addendum 1, and to submit it to the Council for adoption.

7. Once adopted, the European Parliament will be informed about the Council Decision.

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[1] Cf. document 13056/24 + ADD 1.