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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)/Council
Subject:	Annexes to the "Military Requirements for Military Mobility within and beyond the EU" - Statement

Statement by Austria

As regards the Annexes to the Military Requirements for Military Mobility within and beyond the EU, as set out in document 13674/18 dated 9 November 2018, AT is committed to improving Military Mobility as set out in Council Conclusions of 25 June 2018 and has taken a number of steps in Austria in recent years to facilitate military mobility.

However, as regards the military requirements for infrastructure, the competent authorities in Austria are concerned about a number of fundamental challenges in the Annexes, in particular the technical requirements set out in Tables 1.6 and 1.8 of Annex II, which constitute a compilation of maximum demands beyond the existing requirements for Trans-European Networks required only for a fraction of existing equipment while not taking into account financial and engineering considerations as well as geographic realities, especially those of predominantly mountainous countries like Austria.

In line with the “I/A” Item Note, in particular Para. 4, AT is, therefore, of the opinion that the technical requirements set out in Tables 1.6 and 1.8 of Annex II provide the indicative and non-prescriptive military input to the next steps foreseen in the Action Plan on Military Mobility of March 2018. As a consequence, this input does not entail any obligation for Member States, be it with a view to upgrading existing transport infrastructure and/or the construction of new transport infrastructure. Concerning the TEN-T corridors which Austria listed as priorities for military mobility, Austria aims at fulfilling the requirements of the TEN-T Network set out in regulation (EU) 1315/2013 (TEN-T Guidelines) until 2030. Given the merely indicative character of this input, the technical requirements will be subject to a comprehensive examination, including the feasibility, by the Commission and the competent Member States authorities, taking into account the existing equipment and technical viability, financial and engineering considerations as well as geographic realities. Finally, all documents concerning military mobility have to fully respect and reflect the sovereignty and national-decision-making of each Member State, in particular as regards infrastructure including infrastructure development and construction, transport permissions and traffic regulations especially on environmental and safety issues.
