



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: ST 13933/22

Subject: Joint statement of the European Union, the Contracting Parties of the Transport Community Treaty, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia on the closer association of the latter three in the work of the Transport Community
- Draft in view of endorsement

DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC 16.02.2023

Following the meeting of the working party on transport – Intermodal Questions and Networks, on 28 October 2022, delegations will find in the annex the revised draft of the joint statement referred to above, including latest small changers in points 4 and 7 that the Commission representative referred to in the meeting.

The Presidency noted that the term “observer” used in the text is not welcome by all delegations, in view of its limited use - only for Member States of the EU - in the Transport Community Treaty.

DRAFT

Joint Statement from

The European Union,

DELETED*

And

**The Ministers in charge of transport from Ukraine, Georgia and the
Republic of Moldova**

On Cooperation for the Development of the Transport Sectors

* **DELETED**

We, the Sides;

- Recognising that the aim of the Transport Community Treaty is to create a Transport Community in the field of road, rail, inland waterway and maritime transport as well as the development of the transport network between the Union and the South East European Parties.
- Recalling that the Transport Community is based on the progressive integration of transport markets of the Western Balkans Regional Partners into the EU transport market on the basis of the relevant *acquis*, including in the areas of technical standards, interoperability, safety, security, traffic management, social policy, public procurement and environment, for all modes of transport excluding air transport.
- Acknowledging that Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia have already started the approximation of their own legislation, *inter alia*, on transport and associated matters to that of the European Union, through their respective Association Agreements.
- Noting that the European Council of 23-24 June 2022 recognised the European perspective of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia.
- Having regard to the desire to promote the development of international transport in Europe, and especially to facilitate the organisation and operation thereof.
- Noting that sustainable transport is a cornerstone of economic and social integration.
- Agreeing that it is a priority to further develop the transport connectivity between the territories of the Contracting Parties of the Transport Community Treaty and between these territories and those of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, to improve the efficiency and safety of transport, and to achieve the objectives of green and sustainable mobility.
- Recognising the fact that the European Union has made substantial investments in the transport infrastructure of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia to boost connectivity and economic growth through the Eastern Partnership joint policy initiative, including long-term projects aiming to improve transport links on the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

- Stressing the importance of closer cooperation, which may, in a second step, eventually lead to full membership of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia in the Transport Community Treaty.
- Wishing to reflect on the working modalities of the bodies of the Transport Community Treaty for achieving closer cooperation in the field of transport.
- Considering that we desire to endorse this statement to confirm our willingness to cooperate in the framework of the Transport Community.
- Recognising that our joint statement is not intended to create rights or obligations under international or domestic law.
- Have come to the following understanding:
 1. We intend to facilitate closer cooperation between the Sides, in order to create an effective transport network between the European Union and its neighbours.
 2. To this end, we envisage to establish and maintain a continuous working relationship for the achievement of our common objectives.
 3. This should lead to strengthened cooperation in the field of transport, in particular in the work of the Transport Community.
 4. In this regard, we call for the more systematic involvement of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia **as observers** in the **relevant** Transport Community ~~as observers in relevant~~ bodies, including, but not limited to the Regional Steering Committee, the technical committees, the Social Forum, and the Budget Committee.
 5. We envisage this cooperation to start in practice at the occasion of the next meeting of the Regional Steering Committee.
 6. We invite the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat to reflect on the necessary adaptations of the working modalities of the different TCT bodies, in order to facilitate the more systematic involvement of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia described above.
 7. We share the view that the **potential** mutual benefits **arising** ~~that might be gained~~ from the possible accession of Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia to the TCT should be duly explored.
 8. We agree to meet in the present format regularly, in order to review our cooperation and discuss topics of joint interest, as seen fit for contributing to the objectives of our joint cooperation on transport matters.

Endorsed at Brussels,
15 November 2022


