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**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
No. prev. doc.:	ST 5833/22
Subject:	High-level agreement between the EU and the Western Balkan partners (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo*, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) on the adaptation of the indicative maps of neighbouring countries within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 (TEN-T Regulation) - Authorisation to negotiate an NBI

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1. On 1 February 2022, the Working Party on Transport - Intermodal Questions and Networks was informed by the Commission, by means of a note<sup>1</sup>, of its intention to enter into negotiations on a high-level agreement between the EU and the Western Balkan partners (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) on transport infrastructure networks with a view to adopting, following the signature of that non-binding instrument, a delegated act, which will adapt the existing indicative maps of the Western Balkan partners within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 (TEN-T Regulation).

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\* This designation is without prejudice to the positions on Kosovo's status and is in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1244/1999 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on Kosovo's declaration of independence.

<sup>1</sup> ST 5833/22.

2. The six Western Balkan partners mentioned above have informed the Commission that they wish to make changes to the indicative maps of the TEN-T (comprehensive and core network) and transport nodes (airports and ports) on their territory.
  3. The Commission's note on this subject was discussed by the Working Party on 7 February 2022. No objections were raised by any delegation to authorising the Commission to start the negotiations. However, since at this stage the available information about the precise requests of the six Western Balkan partners is very limited, the Commission has agreed to share more information with the Working Party as soon as it becomes available.
  4. Furthermore, it is understood that the Commission will revert to the Council at the end of the negotiations to seek the Council's authorisation for the signature of the high-level agreement on behalf of the EU.
  5. In the light of the foregoing, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest that the Council authorise the Commission to negotiate the abovementioned high-level agreement between the EU and the six Western Balkan partners.
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