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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

No. Cion doc.: 5374/26 + ADD 1

Subject: Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the Joint Committee established under the Protocol to the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement) regarding the international regular and special regular carriage of passengers by coach and bus, as regards draft Decision No .../... of that committee establishing its Rules of Procedure
- Adoption

1. On 14 January 2026 the Commission submitted the above proposal to the Council, which aims to establish a Union position for the adoption of rules of procedure for the Joint Committee set up under the protocol regarding international regular and special regular services under the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement).
2. On 28 September 2021, the Council decided on the conclusion of the protocol.¹ It entered into force on 1 October 2024 and has currently six contracting parties.² The Interbus Agreement, which covers only occasional passenger services, counts 11 contracting parties.

¹ Council Decision (EU) 2023/911 (OJ L 122, 5.5.2023, p. 1).

² European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

3. The Commission representative presented the proposal in the meeting of the Working Group on Land Transport on 10 February 2026. The draft rules of procedure for the Joint Committee under the protocol follow the existing rules of procedure for the Joint Committee under the Interbus Agreement. The Joint Committees would, where appropriate, meet back-to-back in view of membership overlap. After several years of inactivity, meetings are planned for spring 2026, during which the rules of procedure should be adopted.
4. Delegations agreed with the draft rules of procedure. Two delegations invited the Commission to seek coordination with Member States ahead of organising the meetings of the Joint Committees, so that, like in the past, participation of Member States as observers can be ensured. The Presidency concluded that the draft Council decision concerning the rules of procedure should be submitted for adoption.
5. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to recommend that the Council in one of its upcoming meetings:
 - adopts, as an "A" item, the Council decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the Joint Committee established under the Protocol to the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement) regarding the international regular and special regular carriage of passengers by coach and bus, as regards draft Decision No .../... of that committee establishing its Rules of Procedure, as set out, after revision by the lawyer-linguists, in document 6260/26 + ADD1.
6. The European Parliament will be informed about the Council's decision.
