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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

No. Cion doc.: 5675/26 + ADD 1

Subject: Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Group of Experts on the European Agreement concerning the work of crews of vehicles engaged in international road transport (AETR) and in the Working Party on Road Transport of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe as regards a proposal to allow the accession of Mongolia to the AETR
- Adoption

1. On 22 January 2026 the Commission submitted the above proposal to the Council, which aims at preparing the accession of Mongolia to the European Agreement concerning the work of crews of vehicles engaged in international road transport (AETR).
2. The AETR aims to harmonise the legislation of its contracting parties as regards driving and rest times for professional drivers and the corresponding technical requirements for the construction and installation of tachographs to record driving. The AETR entered into force on 5 January 1976 and has currently 53 contracting parties, among them all EU Member States.

3. The Commission representative presented the proposal in the meeting of the Working Group on Land Transport on 10 February 2026. Currently, the AETR has only very few non-European members, and the accession of new members from outside Europe is restricted by a list. The accession of Mongolia could be promoted by amending that list, based on an initiative from the AETR's group of experts, followed by the UNECE Working Party on Road Transport (SC.1).
4. Mongolia has expressed interest in the accession. Its accession would also be in the interest of the EU and its Member States, as it would promote better working conditions, enlarge the space of application of European rules and provide a perspective for foreign drivers' qualification.
5. Delegations supported the initiative. The Presidency concluded that the draft Council decision concerning the accession of Mongolia to the AETR should be submitted for adoption.
6. 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 taken on behalf of the European Union in the Group of Experts on the European Agreement concerning the work of crews of vehicles engaged in international road transport (AETR) and in the Working Party on Road Transport of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe as regards a proposal to allow the accession of Mongolia to the AETR, as set out, after revision by the lawyer-linguists, in document 6285/26 + ADD1.
7. The European Parliament will be informed about the Council's decision.