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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	8069/23
Subject:	Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 15th meeting of the Committee of Technical Experts of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) as regards the modifications to the uniform technical prescriptions concerning the qualifications and independence of assessing entities and concerning a common safety method on risk evaluation and assessment, the modification of the rules of procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts, and the upgrade of the references to the Technical Documents of TAF TSI listed in Appendix I of UTP TAF – Adoption

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission submitted to the Council on 31 March 2023 the above-mentioned proposal for a Council Decision on the EU position at the 15th session of the Committee of Technical Experts of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF).
2. The Committee of Technical Experts has competence in matters of interoperability, technical harmonisation and approval procedures. It can adopt or amend Uniform Technical Prescriptions (UTPs) which are based on Appendixes F and G to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF). The UTPs in the framework of COTIF have the same purpose as the EU technical specifications for interoperability based on Chapter II of Directive (EU) 2016/797.

3. The 15th session of the Committee of Technical Experts of OTIF will take place in Bern on 13 and 14 June 2023. Among other topics to be discussed, The Committee of Technical Experts will be called to revise several UTPs as well as its own rules of procedure.

II. WORK AT THE PREPARATORY BODY

4. At their meeting of 26 April 2023, the Working Party on Land Transport examined the proposal presented by the Commission and lent its support.

III. CONCLUSIONS

5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to endorse the draft Decision and to submit it for adoption by the Council, as presented in document 8782/23, revised by the lawyer-linguists.
 6. Once adopted, the European Parliament will be informed about the Council Decision.
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