



Council of the
European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: **Any other business**

Necessary actions at the European level enabling the completion of infrastructure investments

- Joint Statement by Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Romania
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Delegations will find attached an information note prepared by the Polish delegation on the above-mentioned subject for consideration under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 2 June 2022.

Necessary actions at the European level enabling the completion of infrastructure investments — Joint Statement by Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Romania

AOB – Information from the Polish delegation

On 13 April 2022, the Ministers of Transport of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia participated in a video conference that focused on the consequences of the Russian aggression in Ukraine for infrastructure investments. As a result, they signed a joint statement regarding infrastructure problems. It concerns actions that need to be taken at European level in order to enable the completion of infrastructure investments.

Since the first days of the outbreak of the war, analytical work has been carried out to assess the consequences of Russian military operations. As a result, several key issues requiring urgent EU level decisions and actions have been identified. They are as follows: financing of commenced and future projects, growing problems with supplies arising from the interruption of earlier supply chains and the availability of workers.

Rising investment costs have already been observed since the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, but negative trends have recently significantly accelerated due to the conflict in Ukraine. The increase in energy and raw materials prices directly influences the cost of transport infrastructure construction. Growing problems with supplies arising from the interruption of earlier supply chains are increasing and at the same time difficult to estimate. This entails a significant risk of contractual deadlines not being met. Availability of workers is also a concern, due to a large number of Ukrainian employees that have worked before the war in the road and rail transport sector, construction and industry.

In the joint statement¹ we call on the Commission to, among other things, increase the flexibility of the rules and respective 2014-2020 guidelines applicable for transport projects in the Cohesion Policy. We also ask for support to extend by the end of 2024 the period of eligibility and completion of infrastructure projects co-financed from EU Cohesion Policy funds in the years 2014-2020 and to strengthen the CEF military mobility programme.

In light of the above, Poland requests the possibility to present the joint statement under AOB point at the meeting of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council on 2 June 2022.

¹ 9612/22 ADD 1.