



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 29 February 2012

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REVISED ADDENDUM TO THE "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: COREPER/COUNCIL

Subject: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council
establishing a single European railway area (Recast) **[first reading]**
- Adoption
(a) of the Council's position
(b) of the statement of the Council's reasons
- Statement

COMMON GUIDELINES
Consultation deadline: 7 March 2012

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA

"In principle, Austria supports the initiative to recast the first railway package with the aim of simplifying the regulatory environment in the European railway sector. The competitiveness of rail transport as an environmentally friendly alternative to the road is of crucial importance to Austria.

However, at European level only the framework principles should be laid down for the sector and it should be left to states to organise their rail sector within the framework of the European objectives. Any mandatory separation of bodies, beyond separate accounts and balance sheets, leads to disproportionate additional financial and organisational burdens and to disproportionate interference in railway undertakings' freedom of economic decision making, which Austria does not support.

Austria therefore rejects the wording of Article 13(3) and (6) and cannot accept the position of the Council in first reading."