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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: **Any other business**
Work programme of the incoming Presidency
- Information from the Slovak delegation

Transport plays a key role in enabling the European Union to fully exploit the potential of the EU internal market. As a sector it is well positioned to contribute to the on-going economic recovery, creation of jobs and boosting of competitiveness. Seamless and safe transport of goods, services and people, without losing sight of the objective to promote clean and sustainable transport solutions, will enable the European Union to remain competitive in an ever more globalised world.

The first Slovak Presidency intends therefore to continue the excellent work of its Dutch trio-partner through advancing discussions in the different transport areas, with the aim of contributing to the realisation of a single European transport market.

Relating to air transport, the Slovak Presidency aims to promote aviation safety, enhance competitiveness and facilitate innovations, including for remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS - drones) by means of continuing the good progress achieved under the Dutch Presidency on the **European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Regulation revision**. The objective is to reach a general approach by the end of the mandate.

As far as maritime transport and inland navigation are concerned, the Slovak Presidency will open negotiations with the European Parliament as regards the proposal on **the recognition of professional qualifications in inland waterways**, as well as the proposal for **revision of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) Regulation**, which is part of the European Borders Package. It is the intention of the Slovak Presidency to open negotiations among the Member States on **the passenger ship safety package**, with a view to achieving maximum progress by the December Council.

The Slovak Presidency will pay attention to the international transport relations through continuing the discussions on the **mandates for the Commission to open negotiations with third countries on comprehensive air transport agreements**. Furthermore, in preparation for **the 39th General Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, the Presidency will strive to coordinate a common EU position in order to facilitate international agreements, in particular, on a global market based mechanism (GMBM) to limit CO₂ emissions from international aviation. The Slovak Presidency will facilitate the adoption of Council Decisions for the meetings of the Marine Environment Protection Committee and the Maritime Safety Committee of the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** in order to promote safety and gradual establishment of the monitoring, reporting and verification of carbon dioxide emissions, aimed at reducing emissions in maritime transport.

In the field of railway transport, the Slovak Presidency will aim at the adoption of a **Council decision in relation to a new convention of the Organisation for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD)**.

As regards **GNSS satellite systems** (Galileo and EGNOS), the Slovak Presidency will facilitate the progress of negotiations between the Union and Norway and the Union and the USA on access to Galileo Public Regulated Services, on the basis of mandates agreed under the Dutch Presidency.

The Transport Council under the Slovak Presidency will be held in Brussels on 1 December 2016.