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European Union

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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

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Subject: **Any other business**

Protection against acts of terror in road transport including road infrastructure

– Information from the Swedish delegation

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Delegations will find attached an information note prepared by the Swedish delegation on the above-mentioned subject for consideration under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 8 June 2017.

**Information note from the Swedish delegation on  
road transport security**

Background

On 7 April 2017 an attack was carried out in central Stockholm. The suspect, who was caught just hours after the attack, drove a lorry through one of the busiest pedestrian streets in Stockholm on a Friday afternoon. 5 people were killed and 15 people were injured. The truck was stolen while the driver delivered goods to a restaurant. The investigation is ongoing but there is reason to believe that it was a terrorist attack.

The attack followed a *modus operandi* which is becoming all too familiar. We have seen similar attacks in Nice, Berlin and London.

Follow-up

On 13 April 2017, the Swedish Minister for Infrastructure Anna Johansson met with responsible authorities, municipalities, trade unions and representatives of the transport industry in Sweden with the purpose to give the transport sector a possibility to share initial thoughts on the attack and what could be done to prevent similar attacks in the future. Several interesting proposals were highlighted. Swedish vehicle manufacturers are continuously working on the development of technical support systems in order to increase security.

The grim face of terror is multifaceted. The attack in Stockholm is another reminder that we must discuss how to create security enhancing measures in the field of transport by road vehicles in public environments. We have a common goal in preventing terrorist attacks from happening. At the same time, we must safeguard the rights of our citizens to live in a society with free movement and availability. Any measure that may be decided upon should be both proportionate and cost-effective. They should also respect the principle of subsidiarity.

Much of what needs to be done from a road transport perspective can and is being done within the existing legal framework, both from a technical point of view and with a view to the possibility of cross-sectoral cooperation and exchange both within and among Member States. One important way forward is to keep exchanging best practices on how the transport sector can contribute to prevent attacks like the one in Nice, Berlin and Stockholm. We have the necessary means for that exchange. The Commission is playing an important role in this regard. The Land Transport Security Expert Group (LANDSEC) is another important forum where several good proposals have already been discussed.

#### Discussion in Transport Council

At the Council meeting 8 June, Member States will be invited to take note of the information provided by the Swedish delegation on the attack in Stockholm and to express their views on the subject of protection against acts of terror in the road transport sector.