



Council of the
European Union

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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

Subject: Shift2Rail

- Information from the Commission on the state of play, requested by the French delegation

Delegations will find annexed an information note from the Commission on the above-mentioned subject for consideration under "Any other business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 11 June 2015.

Addition of an AOB issue to the agenda of the Council of June in order to make a state of play concerning the Shift2Rail initiative

The Shift2Rail (S2R) initiative is essential for the European rail industry. Funded with near €1 billion in view to finance research and innovation projects in the railway sector, this initiative represents a major opportunity for the European rail industry in a context of increasingly growing competition from third actors to Europe.

Nearly a year after the adoption of the European regulation in date of 16th June 2014 officially creating shift2rail, it appears therefore appropriate that the Commission informs the Ministers of the progress of the project at the next Council, on 11 June.

This information will also enable stakeholder to value the dynamic at work that should ultimately contribute to the support and funding of research projects eagerly awaited by the industry.