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TRANS 352

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	ST 11482/18 TRANS 335 + ADD 1
Subject:	Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 13th General Assembly of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) as regards certain amendments to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) and to its Appendices – Adoption

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission submitted to the Council on 27 July 2018 the above-mentioned proposal for a Council Decision on the Union position at the 13th General Assembly of the Intergovernmental Organisation Convention for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) as regards certain amendments to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) and to its Appendixes.
2. The OTIF General Assembly will convene in Berne, Switzerland, on 25 and 26 September 2018.
3. The Union has acceded to COTIF in 2011 by virtue of Council Decision 2013/103/EU of 16 June 2011.

II. WORK AT THE PREPARATORY BODY

4. The Working Party on Land Transport examined in its meeting on 16 July 2018 the preliminary information provided by the Commission. On 3 September 2018 the Working Party examined the formal proposal by the Commission and developed a compromise text, as presented in document 11493/18 + ADD 1.

III. CONCLUSIONS

5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to endorse the draft Decision and to submit for adoption by the Council (General Affairs) on 18 September 2018, as presented in document 11493/18 + ADD 1, revised by the lawyer-linguists.
6. The Presidency encourages all relevant Member States to participate in the OTIF General Assembly to exercise their voting rights and to contribute to the debates that will shape the short and medium-term prospects of OTIF.
7. Once adopted, the European Parliament will be informed about the Council Decision.
