



Brussels, 24 October 2018  
(OR. en)

13516/18

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**Interinstitutional File:**  
**2018/0282(NLE)**

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**TRANS 474**  
**COWEB 146**

#### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	ST 10987/18 TRANS 317 COWEB 109
Subject:	Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community – Request for the consent of the European Parliament

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1. The Commission submitted the proposal for concluding the Transport Community Treaty on 13 July 2018. The aim of the Treaty is to promote cooperation in the field of transport within the region of the Western Balkans, to develop a common legislative framework based on the Union *acquis*, to improve infrastructure and connectivity and to facilitate investments. It covers rail, road and seaborne transport, border crossing facilitation and institutionalised cooperation.
2. The Council adopted the Decision on the signing and provisional application of the Treaty on 11 July 2017.<sup>1</sup> The Commission as well as the FR, DE, IT and AT delegations made statements.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See OJ L 278, 27.10.2017, p. 1. The Council Decision was subsequently adopted in the remaining EU language versions.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 10764/17 ADD 1 REV 2.

3. The signing procedure of the Transport Community Treaty was concluded between 12 July 2017 and 9 October 2017. It applies provisionally among all Contracting Parties in accordance with Article 41(3) of that Treaty.<sup>3</sup>
4. The proposal for concluding the Treaty was examined and slightly amended in the working group on land transport on 3 September and 8 October 2018. Based on a Presidency compromise<sup>4</sup>, the working group agreed on the inclusion in Article 2 of a short outline concerning the working method for preparing EU participation in the bodies of the Transport Community Treaty, and on a text to ensure Council's consultation before the Commission decides on updating the Treaty's *acquis*. The Commission, as well as FR, DE, IT and AT maintain their statements made at the occasion of the Council's decision on signing.
5. It is suggested, therefore, that the Permanent Representatives Committee recommends that the Council, at a forthcoming session:
  - decide to forward the draft Decision on the conclusion, as set out in doc. 13111/18 finalised by the legal linguists, together with the text of the above-mentioned Treaty (published in OJ L 278, 27.10.2017, p.3), to the European Parliament for its consent.

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<sup>3</sup> Some of the Contracting Parties already completed their ratification procedure.

<sup>4</sup> Doc. 12643/1/18 REV 1.