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TRANS 105
COWEB 19

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	13516/18 TRANS 474 COWEB 146
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 – Adoption

1. On 12 June 2008, the Commission received a mandate to conduct, on behalf of the European Union, negotiations with the Western Balkan partners on the establishment of a Transport Community¹. The aim of the Transport Community is to promote cooperation in the field of rail, road and seaborne transport within the region, to develop a common legislative framework based on the Union *acquis*, to improve infrastructure and connectivity and to facilitate investments.
2. The Council adopted the decision on the signing and provisional application of the Transport Community Treaty on 11 July 2017². The Commission as well as the FR, DE, IT and AT delegations made statements³.
3. Following this decision, the signing procedure of the Treaty was concluded between 12 July and 9 October 2017.

¹ Doc/10259/08 RESTREINT UE.

² See OJ L 278, 27.10.2017. The Council Decision was subsequently adopted in the remaining EU language versions.

³ Doc. 10764/17 ADD 1 REV 2.

4. The Treaty applies provisionally among the Parties in accordance with its Article 41(3).
5. On 13 July 2018 the Commission submitted the proposal for conclusion.⁴ The working group on land transport on 3 September and 8 October 2018 examined and slightly amended the text.⁵
6. On 6 November 2018, the Council decided to forward the amended draft Council Decision on conclusion⁶, as well as the text of the Agreement⁷, to the European Parliament for its consent.
7. The European Parliament gave its consent for the conclusion of the Transport Community Treaty on 13 February 2019.
8. With a view to completing the procedure on the conclusion of the Transport Community Treaty, it is therefore suggested that the Committee of Permanent Representatives recommends that the Council, at a forthcoming session:
 - adopts the Decision on the conclusion of the Transport Community Treaty, as set out in doc. 13111/18 which was finalised by the legal linguists, and
 - takes note of the statements made, as set out in the addendum to this note.

The European Parliament will be informed accordingly.

⁴ Doc. 10987/18.

⁵ See doc. 12643/1/18 REV 1.

⁶ Doc. 13111/18.

⁷ Published in OJ L 278, 27.10.2017.