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Subject: Eastern Partnership Ministerial meeting on transport, 6 June 2019,
Luxembourg
– Revised draft of a joint declaration

In view of the working group on Intermodal Questions and Networks on 10 May 2019, delegations find attached a revised draft declaration, reflecting a number of initial comments that delegations made in the working party meeting of 3 May 2019. The text shows changes compared to the initial draft circulated as working paper WK 4947/2019.

Joint Declaration

Eastern Partnership - taking the transport cooperation agenda forward

- (1) The European Union (EU) and its Member States and the six Eastern Partner countries of the Eastern Partnership (the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) met in Luxembourg on 6 June 2019 to discuss cooperation in transport and logistics, with special emphasis on the improvement of transport connections between the EU and its closest neighbours the Eastern Partner Countries.
- (2) The European Union, its Member States and the Eastern Partner countries of the Eastern Partnership Countries (hereinafter referred to as the "Sides Participants") reiterate the shared commitment to provide opportunities and deliver tangible results for citizens across the EaP region through improved transport connectivity, as outlined in the Joint Declaration of the EaP Summit of November 2017, and in the document '20 Deliverables for 2020' endorsed at the Summit,
- (3) The Sides Participants also acknowledge the commitment of the Eastern Partner countries Countries to foster actions for road safety improvements as confirmed by the their unanimous political endorsement of an EaP Declaration on Road Safety on 27 April 2018 in Ljubljana,
- (4) The Sides Participants also welcome the adoption and entry into force of a Commission Delegated Regulation (on 9 November 2018 and 14 February 2019 respectively), establishing an indicative maps for the extension of the TEN-T core network to the Eastern Partner Countries, as a new an important achievement of the EU Trans- European Transport Network (TEN-T policy) and European Neighbourhood Policy.
- (5) The Sides Participants also acknowledge the important role of the partner countries Eastern Partner Countries within the extended TEN-T policy in the wider context of the EU-Asia connectivity.

- (6) The ~~Sides~~Participants recognise the progress in cooperation between the EU and the Eastern Partner countries~~Countries~~ since the Eastern Partnership Summit of November 2017 and the results achieved by Eastern Partnership Transport Panel as an efficient framework aiming to strengthen regional transport dialogue;
- (7) In this context, the ~~Sides~~Participants highlight the importance of facilitating movement of people and goods through the improvement of cross-border links and welcome the existing close cooperation and dialogue between the EU and the Eastern Partner countries~~Countries~~ covering all transport modes, including through exchanges of best practices on making transport connections safer, smarter, sustainable and more efficient;
- (8) The ~~Sides~~Participants underline the importance of ~~facilitating movement of people and goods; and of ensuring safe, efficient and~~their commitment to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, in order to foster more sustainable transport between the EU Member States and the ~~Partner countries~~;
- (9) The ~~Sides~~Participants recall in this context ongoing work towards the conclusion of aviation agreements with some ~~EaP countries~~Eastern Partner Countries and regarding the implementation of such already concluded aviation agreements with ~~others~~other Eastern Partner Countries.
- (10) The ~~Sides~~Participants also recall the existing association agreements and bilateral agreements providing for regulatory approximation with EU legislation in all transport areas in the Eastern Partner countries~~Countries~~.
- (11) The ~~Sides~~Participants recognise, as a prerequisite for any sustainable investments in the Eastern Partner Countries, the importance of a sound regulatory framework, ~~continuous reform process to align the~~alignment of transport legislation with the EU acquis, transparent and solid procurement rules and other standards for investments ~~as a prerequisite for any sustainable investments~~, including necessary measures to fight against corruption.

~~(12) The Sides welcome the existing initiatives and effective mechanisms that foster more sustainable transport in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.~~

The Participants Sides will endeavour to:

~~(12) implement the Indicative TEN-T Investment Action Plan listing the, in line with Deliverable 13 of the '20 Deliverables for 2020' as endorsed at the last Eastern Partnership Summit in November. The Plan, published on 15 January 2019, was prepared by the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport and the Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations in cooperation with the World Bank to identify priority projects on the extended, indicative core TEN-T network in Eastern Partner Countries, following the corridor approach. The priority projects located on the extended core TEN-T network of the Eastern Partnership will contribute to improving transport and logistics connections that support a more efficient movement of people and goods in a pan-European transport area. The (14) Indicative TEN-T Investment Action Plan, prepared in close cooperation with the Partner Countries, should serve as guidance for the investments by the governments of the partner countries, the International Financial Institutions and by the European Union in the region to ensure the completion of the extended core TEN-T network by 2030.~~

~~(13) use the Indicative TEN-T Investment Action Plan, prepared in close cooperation with the Eastern Partner Countries as guidance for future investments with the view to completing the extended core TEN-T network by 2030 as well as for promoting digitalisation and decarbonisation of transport. Financial support from the EU's External Investment Plan, in line with the applicable rules and within the limits available, could be used to leverage loans from European and international financial institutions in the context of the implementation of the Indicative TEN-T Investment Action Plan,~~

- (14) *work towards* the establishment of a technical assistance facility for the TEN-T in the Eastern Partnership **Partner Countries in order** to assist the preparation and implementation of projects identified in the Indicative TEN-T Investment Action Plan;
- (15) *deliver* on road safety actions, in line with the EaP Declaration on Road Safety endorsed by all ~~six~~ **Eastern** Partner Countries in Ljubljana in April 2018, **as well as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals concerning the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.** The technical assistance provided to ~~countries~~ **Eastern Partner Countries** by the Eastern Partnership Transport Panel should focus on concrete actions in this respect, including also organising high-level events to raise awareness;
- (16) *work towards* establishment of a Regional Eastern Partnership Road Safety Observatory, which should provide an analytical support for adjusting the national road safety policies, strategies and annual action plans. The intention is to address concrete shortcomings and improve the road safety situation in the **Eastern** Partner Countries;
- (17) where relevant, *work towards* the update of the priority actions for transport cooperation and of the Indicative TEN-T Investment Action Plan;
- (18) *enhance* cooperation in all international fora dedicated to transport;
- (19) *continue working* together in view of achieving further concrete results in the area that will benefit the citizens of the ~~partner countries~~ **Eastern Partner Countries** and the EU.
- (20) This Joint Declaration is not intended to create **new financial obligations, or** rights or obligations under international or domestic law, or to amend rights or obligations resulting from existing agreements.
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