



Council of the
European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	13083/22
Subject:	Coordinated position of the Union and its Member States at the 76 th meeting of the Working Party on Rail Transport of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) as regards the “Unified Railway Law” initiative - Approval

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 6 October 2022 the Commission services submitted to the Council a non-paper¹ in which they outlined a proposed line to take for the above item on the agenda of the next meeting of the working party on rail transport of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

¹ See ST 13083/22.

2. The objective of the UNECE ‘Unified Railway Law’ initiative is to develop an approach for the unification of rail transport law with the view to improving the efficiency and competitiveness of Euro-Asia rail freight transport services. Work started ten years ago, and the working party on rail transport took stock of latest developments on 17 to 19 November 2021 and on 7 September 2022.² The next meeting to discuss the issue is scheduled for 16 to 18 November 2022.

II. WORK AT THE PREPARATORY BODY

3. The Working Party on Land Transport discussed the draft coordinated position on 12 October 2022. Delegations taking the floor agreed with the line to take. In particular, it was felt that the discussion has reached a point where the codification of railway law could move forward, pending the strategic decision about the preferred approach. Although there were two members in the UNECE working party who advocated alternative approaches, arguments seem to have been exhausted on the strategic matter, while there remained work to be done on the codification side.
4. The Presidency concluded that the draft coordinated position should clearly reflect the fact that a vote in the UNECE working party might become the appropriate course of action.³

III. CONCLUSIONS

5. In light of the above, the Council is invited, subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee, to approve the coordinated position of the European Union and its Member States as set out in the addendum to this note.

² See ST 13284/21 and WK 11256/22.

³ See WK 13875/22.