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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	13698/22 + ADD 1
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2022) 537 final
Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community as regards certain changes to administrative and staff rules and the introduction of an education allowance and rules on secondment and locally contracted experts – Adoption

1. On 21 October 2022, the European Commission proposed a draft Council decision on an EU position in the Regional Steering Committee of the EU-Western Balkans Transport Community, aiming at new rules in the area of human resources.
2. Envisaged changes concern basic rules on granting telework on an exceptional basis, the introduction of an education allowance for staff of the Permanent Secretariat, and rules on seconded national experts and on using the service of locally contractec experts.
3. The Working Group on Transport – Intermodal Questions and Networks discussed the proposal on 28 October 2022. The Commission representative referred to previous discussions on the need to establish an education allowance for the Transport Community's staff. This was important to make the Permanent Secretariat an attractive place of work for men and women both from the region and from EU Member States.

The financial impact was already considered in the budget for 2023. As regards the secondment rules, those should help building administrative capacity. The rules on locally contracted experts should help identifying resources in case of specific support needs. Finally, the absence of rules on telework had become apparent during the Covid-19 crises. On a question from a delegation regarding the calculation of the levels of the education allowance and the seconded experts' daily subsistence allowance, the Commission provided information in writing. In the meeting on 8 November 2022, the Presidency concluded that the examination at the technical level was completed. The adoption of the new rules is planned for the meeting of the Regional Steering Committee on 15 December 2022.

4. In light of this, it is suggested, subject to endorsement by the Permanent Representatives Committee, that Council decides on the EU position as set out, after lawyer-linguistic revision, in document ST 14460/22 + ADD 1.
5. Once adopted, the decision will be published in the Official Journal and the European Parliament will be informed about it.
