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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: EU-Western Balkans Transport Community Treaty
- Union position on the appointment of senior management to the
Permanent Secretariat
= approval

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 30 January 2020, the Commission informed Council about the handling and outcome of the procedure for selecting candidates for the positions of Director and Deputy Director, for a maximum of three years (renewable), in the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community¹.

¹ Commission staff working document, ST 5406/20.

2. The Treaty establishing the Transport Community ('TCT') entered into force on 1 May 2019 among the EU and all six South East European Partners. The Transport Community's Permanent Secretariat, established during 2019 in Belgrade, is currently headed by a Commission official as interim Director until the first Director will be appointed in accordance with "Rules on the recruitment, working conditions and geographic equilibrium of the staff of the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community", adopted on 5 June 2019 by the Regional Steering Committee¹.
3. Under these rules, a selection panel is set up for the selection process. This panel invites applicants with the best profile for the specific requirements of the post to an interview, selected on the basis of their merits relevant to the post. Candidates shortlisted by the selection panel for the Director's post are then called for an interview with the Commission.
4. Accordingly, the Permanent Secretariat published vacancy notices for the Director and one Deputy Director on 3 July 2019 and created selection panels which conducted written tests and interviews with shortlisted candidates between October and November 2019.
5. Under the rules on recruitment, the Commission is held, following those interviews, to propose one candidate for the post to the TCT Regional Steering Committee. The Committee may ask for a hearing of the nominee before the decision for appointment is taken, and will then, following consultation of the TCT Ministerial Council, decide on the appointment. Appointment decisions are tentatively scheduled for end of March 2020.

¹ The position of the EU regarding those rules has been defined in Council Decision (EU) 2019/299 of 12 February 2019 on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community as regards certain personnel matters in relation to the implementation of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community, OJ L 50, 21.2.2019, p. 23.

II. WORK AT THE PREPARATORY BODY

6. The Commission informed the Working Party on Intermodal Transport in its meeting on 31 January 2020 about the selection process and the candidates retained by the selection panels. It intended to propose the following candidates to the Regional Steering Committee as managers within the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community:
Mr Matej ZAKONJŠEK for the position of Director, and Ms Ljuba SILJANOSKA for the position of Deputy Director.
7. Several delegations entered scrutiny reservations. Delegations welcomed the steady progress being made in establishing a fully functional Permanent Secretariat. In the working group meeting on 14 February 2020, the Commission provided additional information on the selection process. No delegations raised objections concerning the selections.

III. CONCLUSIONS

8. With a view to establishing a Union position for a forthcoming meeting of the TCT Regional Steering Committee, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to suggest that Council approves the candidates proposed by the Commission: Mr Matej ZAKONJŠEK for the position of Director, and Ms Ljuba SILJANOSKA for the position of Deputy Director within the Permanent Secretariat of the Transport Community.