



Brussels, 17 February 2020  
(OR. en)

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TRANS 62

#### 'A' ITEM NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
No. prev. doc.:	5716/20
Subject:	Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on amending the Protocol to the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement) regarding the international regular and special regular carriage of passengers by coach and bus and the Protocol amending the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement) by extending the possibility of accession to the Kingdom of Morocco – Adoption

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#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission submitted to the Council on 29 November 2019 the above-mentioned recommendation for a Council Decision.

2. Prior to this proposal, based on a Council mandate dated 4 December 2014<sup>1</sup>, the Commission had negotiated two new protocols to the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement), namely one on a geographical extension to allow the accession of Morocco, and one on regular and special regular services. Following Council's authorisation on 16 July 2018<sup>2</sup>, both protocols were signed by the Union, but not, within the deadline for signature, by a sufficient number of other Contracting Parties.
3. The recommendation mainly aims at reopening the two protocols for signature and facilitating their subsequent entry into force.

## II. WORK AT THE PREPARATORY BODY

4. The Working Party on Land Transport examined the proposal in its meeting on 10 December 2019, which delegations generally supported. A Presidency compromise text was endorsed at the meeting of the working party on 27 January 2020. The Permanent Representatives Committee prepared the Council's decision on 14 February 2020. Romania has indicated that it will abstain.

## III. CONCLUSIONS

5. The Council (meeting of the Ecofin Council on 18 February 2020) is invited to
  - adopt the decision as presented in document 5587/20, revised by the lawyer-linguists, and its addendum 1;
  - decide not to publish the decision in the Official Journal in view of its nature.

The text of the decision including its addendum will be transmitted to the European Parliament for information in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU.

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<sup>1</sup> See documents ST 14892/1/14 REV 1 and 15601/14 + ADD 1 (EU RESTRICTED).

<sup>2</sup> See Council Decisions (EU) 2018/1195 and (EU) 2018/1211 in OJ L 214, 23.8.2018, p. 3 and OJ L 222, 3.9.2018, p. 1.