



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 10 February 2020
(OR. en)

5587/20

TRANS 34

LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION authorising the opening of negotiations for the amendment of 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 of 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

COUNCIL DECISION

of ...

**authorising the opening of negotiations
for the amendment of 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 of 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**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 91,
in conjunction with Article 218(3) and (4) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) On 3 October 2002 the Council approved the conclusion of the Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (Interbus Agreement) on behalf of the Union by Decision 2002/917/EC¹. The Interbus Agreement entered into force on 1 January 2003.
- (2) On 16 July 2018 the Council adopted Decisions (EU) 2018/1195² and (EU) 2018/1211³, respectively on the signing of a Protocol to the Interbus Agreement regarding the international regular and special regular carriage of passengers by coach and bus (the ‘Protocol on regular and special regular services’) and of a Protocol amending the Interbus Agreement by extending the possibility of accession to the Kingdom of Morocco (the ‘Protocol on Morocco’) (collectively the ‘two Protocols’).

¹ Council Decision 2002/917/EC of 3 October 2002 on the conclusion of the Interbus Agreement on the international occasional carriage of passengers by coach and bus (OJ L 321, 26.11.2002, p. 11).

² Council Decision (EU) 2018/1195 of 16 July 2018 on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of a 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 (OJ L 214, 23.8.2018, p. 3).

³ Council Decision (EU) 2018/1211 of 16 July 2018 on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of a 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 (OJ L 222, 3.9.2018, p. 1).

- (3) The Union signed the Protocol on regular and special regular services on 24 September 2018. No other Contracting Parties to the Interbus Agreement have signed that Protocol.
- (4) The Union signed the Protocol on Morocco on 11 April 2019. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Turkey have also signed that Protocol.
- (5) The period during which the two Protocols were open for signature expired on 16 April 2019. In order to allow those Contracting Parties to the Interbus Agreement that have not yet signed and concluded the two Protocols to do so, it is appropriate to amend the two Protocols as regards their deadline for signature.
- (6) As the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, one of the Contracting Parties to the Interbus Agreement, has changed its official denomination to the Republic of North Macedonia, it is appropriate to amend the two Protocols to reflect this change.
- (7) It is appropriate to amend the Protocol on regular and special regular services so that its entry into force requires approval or ratification by a smaller number of Contracting Parties, and a shorter waiting period following that approval or ratification, than specified in the Interbus Agreement.

- (8) It is appropriate to amend the Protocol on Morocco so that it enters into force only after it has been concluded by all current Contracting Parties to the Interbus Agreement.
- (9) Signatures of either of the two Protocols that have taken place before 16 April 2019 should remain valid.
- (10) The Commission should, therefore, be authorised to open negotiations, on behalf of the Union, with a view to amending the two Protocols,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. The Commission is hereby authorised to open negotiations, on behalf of the Union, for the amendment of the Protocol on regular and special regular services and of the Protocol on Morocco in order to make certain technical changes regarding their signing and entry into force, and to reflect the change in the denomination of one Contracting Party to the Interbus Agreement.
2. The negotiations shall be conducted on the basis of the negotiating directives of the Council set out in the addendum to this Decision.

Article 2

The negotiations shall be conducted in consultation with the Council Working Party on Land Transport, acting as the Special Committee provided for in Article 218(4) of the Treaty.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Commission.

Done at ...,

For the Council

The President
