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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	ST 7304/24 + ADD 1
Subject:	Council Decision Authorising the Commission to open negotiations on amendments to the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on the Carriage of Freight by Road of 29 June 2022 – Adoption

CONTEXT AND CONTENT OF THE PROPOSAL

1. On 5 March 2024, the Commission presented to the Council its proposal for a Council Decision authorising the Commission to open negotiations on amendment to the Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on the Carriage of Freight by Road of 29 June 2022.

EXAMINATION AT WORKING PARTY LEVEL

2. On 7 and 19 March, the Working Party on Land Transport discussed the proposal. On 26 March the proposal was discussed in the informal videoconference of the member of the Working Party on Land Transport. The proposal was discussed a last time in the working party on Land Transport on Tuesday 16 April.
3. The changes in the Council decision compared to the Commission proposal relate to the clarification of the competence in a recital and an additional article in the Decision.

4. The Working Party also amended the proposed negotiating directives, in particular by:
- clarifying that next to the obligation to carry a copy of the authorisation or licence to perform international road transport, digital solutions should also be envisaged;
 - that a template should be developed to allow the parties to communicate to each other the identity of the road haulage operators that do not respect the Agreement and that monitoring will be discussed every six months in the Joint Committee;
 - establishing clear rules on the composition of a to be established ad hoc working party to ensure better monitoring of the implementation of the agreement.
5. It was agreed that the agreement can be prolonged for an initial period until 30 June 2025. Unless one of the parties has solid and clear evidences that there is a major disturbance of its road transport market as a whole or that the objectives of the Agreement are manifestly not met anymore, the agreement should be tacitly renewed with 6 months.

CONCLUSION

6. The Committee of Permanent Representatives is invited to suggest that the Council, in part "A" of the agenda of a forthcoming meeting, adopts the Council Decision in document 8321/24 and the negotiating directives in document 8321/1/24 ADD 1.
7. The European Parliament will be informed of the adoption of the Council Decision in all languages in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU and the Council Decision will be transmitted to the Parliament.
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