



Council of the
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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	17 December 2020
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	C(2020) 8872 final
Subject:	COMMISSION DECISION of 15.12.2020 on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the adoption of the "Declaration of Locarno on developing the railway system"

Delegations will find attached document C(2020) 8872 final.

Encl.: C(2020) 8872 final



Brussels, 15.12.2020
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 15.12.2020

**on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the adoption of the
"Declaration of Locarno on developing the railway system"**

COMMISSION DECISION

of 15.12.2020

on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the adoption of the "Declaration of Locarno on developing the railway system"

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union lists the powers of the Commission and provides in particular that the Commission is to ensure the Union's external representation, with the exception of the common foreign and security policy and other cases provided for in the Treaties.
- (2) On 4 September 2020, the Ceneri base tunnel in Switzerland was officially opened. On that occasion, Switzerland organised an informal ministerial meeting in Locarno involving Member States concerned to discuss on the modal shift policy and financing measures in transalpine transport and the promotion of international passenger rail transport. It also proposed to mark the event with the signature of a declaration on developing the railway system.
- (3) From March 2020 to July 2020, discussions took place between representatives of the Commission, of Switzerland and of the Member States concerned with a view to drawing up a non-binding instrument setting out political commitments with regard to the promotion of international rail freight and passenger services. The Declaration of Locarno on developing the railway system is the result of those discussions.
- (4) The declaration was opened for signature in September 2020. The Member of the Commission responsible for Transport announced the Commission's intention to sign it, subject to the conclusion of the established procedure for the signature of the declaration.
- (5) The Council has been kept informed of the discussions and of the envisaged date for signature.
- (6) The Declaration of Locarno on developing the railway system does not, nor is it intended to, create any legal obligations on either side under domestic or international law.
- (7) Given the interest of the Union in stronger international cooperation and coordination to help shift more transalpine traffic from road to rail, it is appropriate to sign the Declaration of Locarno on developing the railway system.
- (8) It is necessary to submit the Declaration of Locarno on developing the railway system to the Council for endorsement, prior to its signing by the Commission on behalf of the Union,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Declaration of Locarno on developing the railway system, as attached to this Decision, is approved.

The text of the Declaration of Locarno on developing the railway system is submitted to the Council for endorsement.

Article 2

The Member of the Commission responsible for Transport or the person designated by him/her is authorised to sign the Declaration of Locarno on developing the railway system on behalf of the Union, after its endorsement by the Council.

Done at Brussels, 15.12.2020

*For the Commission
Adina-Ioana VĂLEAN
Member of the Commission*