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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 17th session of the Committee of Technical Experts of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) as regards the revision of the Uniform Technical Prescriptions applicable to the subsystem “rolling stock – locomotives and passenger rolling stock”, to the accessibility of the rail system for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility, to vehicle marking, to the subsystem “infrastructure”, and to the subsystem “Telematics applications for freight services”, and as regards the update of the Handbook for the implementation and application of the APTU and ATMF Uniform Rules
- Adoption

1. The Committee of Technical Experts (CTE) of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) has competence in matters of interoperability, technical harmonisation and approval procedures. It can adopt or amend Uniform Technical Prescriptions (UTPs) which are based on Appendixes F and G to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF). The UTPs in the framework of COTIF have the same purpose as the EU technical specifications for interoperability based on Chapter II of Directive (EU) 2016/797.

2. The 17th session of the CTE will take place in Bern on 17 and 18 June 2025. Among other topics to be discussed, the CTE will be called to revise UTPs applicable to:
- the subsystem “rolling stock – locomotives and passenger rolling stock” (UTP LOC&PAS),
 - the accessibility of the rail system for persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility (UTP PRM),
 - vehicle marking (UTP Marking),
 - the subsystem “infrastructure” (UTP INF) and
 - the subsystem “Telematics applications for freight services” (UTP TAF).

Likewise, the CTE will be called to update the Handbook for the implementation and application of the APTU¹ and ATMF² Uniform Rules.

3. On 23 May 2025, the Commission submitted to the Council a non-paper outlining the content of the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 17th session of the CTE as regards the items entailing legal effect. The non-paper was examined in the Working Party on Land Transport on 27 May 2025. Delegations raised no comments on the proposed position.
4. On 4 June 2025, the Commission submitted to the Council the proposal for a Council Decision that reflects in substance the content of the non-paper. That proposal was examined in the Working Party on Land Transport on 10 June 2025. No comments were raised and therefore the deliberations at working-party level were considered closed.

¹ Uniform Rules concerning the Validation of Technical Standards and the Adoption of Uniform Technical Prescriptions applicable to Railway Material intended to be used in International Traffic (Appendix F to the Convention).

² Uniform Rules concerning the Technical Admission of Railway Material used in International Traffic (Appendix G to the Convention).

5. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the draft Decision as set out in the document 9462/25, revised by the lawyer-linguists, and to submit it to the Council for adoption.
 6. Once adopted, the European Parliament will be informed about the Council Decision.
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