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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 96/53/EC laying down for certain road vehicles circulating within the Community the maximum authorised dimensions in national and international traffic and the maximum authorised weights in international traffic - General approach

Delegations will find attached a statement by the German Federal Government, followed by a courtesy translation in English to be included in the minutes of the Transport, Telecommunication and Energy Council.

Statement by the Federal Government of Germany for the minutes of the Transport Council meeting on 4 December 2025

on the general approach on the proposal amending Directive 96/53/EC laying down for certain road vehicles circulating within the Community the maximum authorised dimensions in national and international traffic and the maximum authorised weights in international traffic

The Federal Government welcomes the compromise reached and agrees to the general approach. The deliberations focused on the main objectives: simplifying the Directive while at the same time supporting the uptake of zero-emission vehicles. The general approach clearly emphasises the promotion of zero-emission vehicles while taking into account the impact on the infrastructure, given that these vehicles have particular technical characteristics. From our point of view, the text strikes a good balance between these two aspects.

In addition, the Federal Government makes the following statement.

For longer articulated vehicles with a length of 17.88 m or more, the Federal Government would like to find a Europe-wide agreement instead of isolated national solutions. Regarding the option of authorising shuttle services using longer articulated vehicles at national level, the Federal Government considers it essential that additional incentives be created for investments in zero-emission vehicles.