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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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

No. Cion doc.: 8294/26

Subject: Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 18th session of the Committee of Technical Experts of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail with regard to the revision of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts, the revision of the Uniform Technical Prescriptions applicable to the subsystem 'Rolling stock – freight wagons' and to the subsystem 'Rolling stock – locomotives and passenger rolling stock', the adoption of a Uniform format of certificates and the amendment of the Uniform Technical Prescriptions applicable to the subsystem 'Telematics applications for freight services'
- 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 18th session of the CTE will take place in Bern on 9 June 2026. Among other topics to be discussed, the CTE will be called to adopt decisions to revise its Rules of Procedure, the UTP WAG ('Rolling stock – freight wagons') and the UTP LOC&PAS ('Rolling stock – locomotives and passenger rolling stock'), to adopt an Annex C to the ATMF UR (Uniform Rules concerning the Technical Admission of Railway Material used in International Traffic) concerning a uniform format of certificates and to amend Appendix I to the UTP TAF ('Telematics applications for freight services').
3. On 16 April 2026, the Commission submitted to the Council the proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union at the 18th session of the CTE as regards the items entailing legal effect.
4. The Working Party on Land Transport examined the proposal on 5 May 2026. Upon request from the delegations, a position on the amendments to the handbook for the implementation and application of the APTU and ATMF, originally included in the Commission proposal, was removed from the scope of the Council Decision, with an intention of including it among the positions concerning items without legal effects for the Union.
5. Delegations raised no other comments on the proposed position and therefore the deliberations at working-party level were considered closed.
6. In light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the draft Decision as set out in the document 8956/26, revised by the lawyer-linguists, and to submit it to the Council for adoption.
7. Once adopted, the European Parliament will be informed about the Council Decision.