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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
On:	18 September 2026

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Subject:	Council Decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union on the amendments to the Annexes to the Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and to the Regulations annexed to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN) - Adoption
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 7 September 2026, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for the above-mentioned Council decision. It aims at establishing a Union position on several amendments to technical parts of the Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and of the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN).

2. The amendments represent wide-ranging adaptations of technical rules to technical and scientific progress. They were developed by experts in meetings of the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, of the ADN Safety Committee, and of the ADN Administrative Committee between June 2024 and summer 2026, organised by the UNECE. They should become binding on Contracting Parties on 1 January 2027.
3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations launched the consultation of the contracting parties on the changes to the above-mentioned agreements on 1 July 2026 and extended that consultation to a further change on 1 September 2026. That consultation starts a silent procedure, meaning that objections to the new rules becoming binding must be raised within three months.
4. The Union is not a contracting party to either of the agreements. However, all Member States are contracting parties to the Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and thirteen Member States are contracting parties to the European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN). The Union regulates, in particular through Directive 2008/68/EC¹, the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterways, and refers to the application of rules adopted under ADR and ADN.

¹ Directive 2008/68/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 September 2008 on the inland transport of dangerous goods (OJ L 260, 30.9.2008, p. 13).

II. WORK AT THE PREPARATORY BODY

5. The Commission representative presented the proposal at the meeting of the Working Group on Land Transport on 8 September 2026. Several delegations supported the amendments agreed by the experts, and the Presidency noted general scrutiny reservations. One delegation drew attention to a further consultation document² launched in September which needed to be added to the reference documents of the draft Council decision. At the following meeting of the Working Group on 14 September 2026, under “Any other business”, delegations were made aware that the formulation of the draft Council decision in the proposal differed from previous practice and that the lawyer-linguistic review would seek alignment, so that further deliberation on the merits of those deviations could be avoided in view of the timeline of the UN’s silent procedure. France entered a parliamentary scrutiny reservation which it would not be able to lift before 30 September 2026. France will make a statement to the Council’s minutes.
6. The Presidency concluded that the Working Party had endorsed the proposal, as amended by adding one reference document.

III. CONCLUSIONS

7. In light of the above, The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to endorse the draft Decision and to submit it for adoption to the Council, as presented in document 12936/26³ after revision by the lawyer-linguists.
8. After its adoption, the European Parliament will be informed about the Council Decision.

² C.N.337.2026.TREATIES-XI.D.6

³ The document will be made available on the Delegates Portal on 22 September 2026.