



Brussels, 12 December 2018  
(OR. en)

15380/18

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**Interinstitutional File:  
2018/0408(NLE)**

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**TRANS 634  
COWEB 176**

**'I/A' ITEM NOTE**

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	ST 14965/18 + ADD 1
Subject:	Council decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community Treaty as regards certain budgetary matters in relation to the implementation of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community – <i>Adoption</i>

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1. On 3 December 2018 the European Commission submitted a proposal for a Council decision on taking a position on behalf of the European Union within the EU-Western Balkan Transport Community's Regional Steering Committee in respect of certain budgetary and personnel matters.
2. The adoption of the 2019 annual budget within the Regional Steering Committee is necessary to establish the permanent secretariat of the Transport Community, and would allow pursuing the envisaged work, *i.a.* in the area of road safety, adaptation to the Union *acquis*, as well as cross-border transport connectivity and integration with European TEN-T corridors, in line with the Sofia Summit Declaration of the EU-Western Balkans Summit of 17 May 2018. The Commission proposes an overall amount of EUR 1,63 million.<sup>1</sup> The European Union's contribution to this budget amounts to 80 per cent.

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<sup>1</sup> Of which EUR 750.000 + 200.000 are foreseen for salaries and social contributions, EUR 330.000 for the running costs of the Secretariat, and 100.000 each for recruitment costs for key staff and IT equipment; 150.000 would be allocated to a reserve.

3. In view of time constraints, the Presidency suggested to expedite the examination of the Transport Community budget for the year 2019,<sup>2</sup> leaving the part of the proposal concerning personnel matters for discussion at a later stage.
4. The working group on land transport examined the above proposal on 7 December 2018. While delegations agreed with accelerating the examination of the budget, additional information was requested on its calculation. The FR and UK delegations entered parliamentary scrutiny reservations. During a meeting of attachés on 12 December 2018, a more detailed examination was carried out, resulting in general agreement with the proposal. The Presidency invited the Commission to keep the working party informed about the execution of the first budget and about the work that the future Secretariat will carry out.
5. In light of this, it is suggested that the Permanent Representatives Committee recommends that the Council, at a forthcoming session
  - adopts the decision on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Regional Steering Committee of the Transport Community Treaty as regards certain budgetary matters in relation to the implementation of the Treaty establishing the Transport Community, as set out, after lawyer-linguistic revision, in document 15204/18, and
  - instructs the preparatory bodies to continue the examination of the proposal concerning other matters.

The European Parliament will be informed about this decision.

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<sup>2</sup> See Presidency compromise in Doc. 14975/18.