



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## MEMO

# Fact Sheet: Transport Council on 1 December 2016 in Brussels

Brussels, 30 November 2016

The 28 EU Transport Ministers will meet in Brussels on 1 December 2016 under the Slovak Presidency. **Violeta Bulc**, EU Commissioner for Transport, will represent the European Commission. Commissioner for Security Union **Julian King** will attend the point on Transport security.

Agenda items include aviation and passenger ship safety along with a number of non-legislative points, such as transport security, connected vehicles, the upcoming road initiatives, road safety and women in transport. Ministers will also have a debate on the financing of transport infrastructure in the presence of the Vice-President of the European Investment Bank (EIB) Mr Pim van Ballekom.

## 1. Aviation:

### • Aviation safety Regulation

**What is expected at this Council?** Ministers are expected to reach an informal agreement ("general approach") on the Commission's proposal to amend the EU aviation safety regulation. This would allow trilogues to start under the upcoming Maltese Presidency (first semester of 2017).

**Background:** On 7 December 2015, the Commission [proposed to revise the EU Basic Aviation Safety Regulation](#) as part of the [Aviation Strategy for Europe](#). The objective is to better equip the EU's aviation safety system for future challenges. This includes a legal framework for the safe use of drones.

### • EU-level aviation agreement with Armenia

**What is expected at this Council?** Ministers are expected to authorise the Commission to start negotiations for an EU-level aviation agreement with Armenia.

**Background:** As part of the [Aviation Strategy for Europe](#), the Commission asked the Council to authorise it to start negotiations for comprehensive EU-level air transport agreements with several countries and regions in the world: ASEAN, Turkey, Gulf countries, Armenia, China, and Mexico. These agreements create new economic opportunities and ensure fair and transparent market conditions based on a clear regulatory framework for all actors. So far the Council has granted the Commission authorisations to start negotiations with ASEAN, Turkey, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

**For more information:**

[An Aviation Strategy for Europe website](#)

[Fact sheets on all international aviation agreements](#)

## 2. Passenger ship safety

**What is expected at this Council?** Ministers are expected to reach an informal agreement ("general approach") on two Commission's proposals: safety rules for passenger ships, and a system of inspections for the safe operation of "ro-ro" ferries. This would allow trilogues to start under the upcoming Maltese Presidency (first semester of 2017). On a third proposal (Passenger Registration) a progress report will be presented to the Council.

**Background:** on 7 June 2016, the Commission [adopted three proposals](#) to simplify and improve common rules on the safety of ships carrying passengers in EU waters. This was a response to lessons learnt, including from accidents, and technological developments. It also aimed at removing some redundant and costly requirements.

### For more information:

Press release: [European Commission adopts proposals to simplify and improve passenger ship safety rules](#)

## 3. "Any Other Business" Points:

### • Follow-up to Amsterdam Declaration on connected cars

**What is expected at this Council?** The Dutch Delegation will invite Member States and the Commission to attend the first meeting of the High Level Structural Dialogue on Connected and Automated Driving (Amsterdam, February 2017). Ministers will also be informed of the [adoption of the EU Strategy for Cooperative Intelligent Transport Systems \(C-ITS\)](#), a first milestone in developing a coherent European framework for connected and automated vehicles..

**Background:** European Transport and Environment ministers met informally in Amsterdam in April 2016. Among others, they discussed actions needed to enable the development and wide-scale introduction of connected and automated driving. This resulted in the "[Amsterdam Declaration](#)", a first step towards a common European strategy for connected and automated driving.

### • Upcoming road initiatives

**What is expected at this Council?** The Commission will inform Transport Ministers on the core elements of a series of road initiatives planned for 2017, and the state of play of their preparation.

**Background:** As part of its [Work Programme for 2017](#), the Commission announced its intention to propose a series of road initiatives. They will for instance seek to allow a better enforcement of social rules in the road transport sector and to propose improvements for those Member States who choose to use road charging.

- **Transport security**

**What is expected at this Council?** The Commission will seek the Member States views on how to further improve transport security, and will inform them about the state of play of Commission activities in this field.

- **Road Safety**

**What is expected at this Council?** The Commission will inform Transport Ministers of the [report adopted on 29 November](#) on the cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences. The Commission will also present the preliminary overview of 2016 road safety situation and inform about the state on serious injuries.

- **Women in Transport**

**What is expected at this Council?** The Commission will inform Ministers and stress the importance of the topic. The aim is to trigger a discussion about the issue of women in transport – both as employees and users - and to explore a possible way forward to bring more gender balance to the sector.