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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
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Subject:	Any Other Business Work programme of the incoming presidency - Information from the Italian delegation

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE INCOMING PRESIDENCY

INFORMATION FROM THE ITALIAN DELEGATION

In view of the incoming Italian Presidency, the Transport Council will be informed of the priorities under the heading “ Infrastructures and Transports for growth and cohesion”.

The Italian Presidency intends to contribute to the creation of a single European transport area, as infrastructure and transport sectors play an important role to ensure economic growth, create employment and foster European economic and social cohesion.

In this context priority will be given to the European TEN-T Corridors and the first goal will be to strengthen the EU TEN-T Corridors’ governance, with the aim to pursue a rational and harmonized implementation of the TEN-T Corridors.

In light of the growing need for investments in infrastructures, the Presidency will stimulate a strategic debate on the attraction of private capital and on the need to grant Member States more flexibility to use public budget to finance cross border major projects of EU interest. During the Italian Presidency a new emphasis on the TEN-T concept will be promoted, focusing on rail-road terminal, port, and airport nodes, as well as road networks, in order to give impulse to an in-depth assessment of TEN-T networks and achieve the EU transport policy objectives.

As regards rail transport the Presidency will encourage progress in the political pillar of the IV railway package and will promote a policy debate in order to find a common position among Member States. Moreover the Presidency will negotiate with the European Parliament the technical pillar of the IV railway package.

In the field of road transport the Presidency will focus on reinforcing intermodal transport with the aim of reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions and will continue to work on the proposal for a revised directive on weights and dimensions.

Relating to air transport, the Presidency intends to give impulse to negotiations on the proposed regulations (SES2+), sighting towards a Single European Sky, with the aim of accelerating the reform of the European air traffic control in order to meet the growing traffic demand expected in the coming years. The Presidency could also examine the revision of the rules governing the European Agency for Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

The Presidency could also endeavour to finalize the adoption of the air passenger rights package and could advance the negotiations on the Airport package (on the allocation of time slots, on ground-handling services).

The Commission's Communication on the opening of the aviation market to the civil use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems in a safe and sustainable manner could be object of an exchange of views.

Given the increasing relevance of sea shipping and of the maritime commercial routes that link European Union's ports to all other major economies, the Presidency underlines the importance of enhancing the role of European ports as terminals of logistic nodes as defined in the TEN-T network.

In the field of GNSS satellite systems (Galileo and EGNOS), the Italian Presidency is committed to promoting Public Regulated Services and the so-called Early Services in commercial sectors, considering that any further delay in the offer of satellite services with respect to competing satellite systems will undermine the perspective of penetrating global markets.
