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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Aviation
Subject:	Follow-up from the Informal Videoconference of Transport Ministers, of 29 April 2020

Delegates will find attached a follow-up note to the Informal Video conference of 29 April 2020

Follow-up from the Informal Videoconference of Transport Ministers, of 29 April 2020

Executive summary

On 18 March 2020 Transport Ministers held the first informal videoconference and agreed to establish national focal points for transport which proved to be useful platform for sharing information on traffic flows on the Green Lanes, for notifying measures adopted in the context of the COVID-19 crisis and for sharing other relevant information.

At a second informal videoconference, held on 29 April 2020, the Transport Ministers supported future work on exit and recovery strategy while reaffirming the importance of a coordinated approach in order to prepare, in a timely and well organized way, proportionate and non-discriminatory exit and recovery measures for the transport sector.

Main messages

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- for aviation, a significant majority of Member States expressed the need to urgently amend regulation 261/2004 in order to follow an harmonised approach to Air passengers rights at EU level and allow temporarily airlines to issue vouchers instead of immediately reimbursing cancelled tickets, while also taking into account the interests of the passengers, possibly ensuring a mechanism of guarantee in case of insolvency, and to even apply a similar instrument to all types of transport; some Member States opposed changes to the current rules so as not to frustrate the legitimate expectations of passengers. BRW

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