Basic information

2025/0407(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision	Procedure completed
Empowering Austria to amend its existing bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland with a view to authorising cabotage operations in the course of the provision of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries **Subject** 3.20.05 Road transport: passengers and freight 3.20.15.04 Road transport agreements and cooperation **Geographical area** Austria Switzerland	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
TRAN Transport and Tourism	Chair on behalf of committee VOZEMBERG-VRIONIDI Elissavet (EPP)	04/02/2026
	Shadow rapporteur SCHIEDER Andreas (S&D) HAIDER Roman (PfE) ZŁOTOWSKI Kosma (ECR) CASSART Benoit (Renew) SCHILLING Lena (Greens /EFA) KOUNTOURA Elena (The Left)	

Committee for opinion on the legal basis	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs	BOCHEŃSKI Tobiasz (ECR)	11/12/2025

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner

	Mobility and Transport	TZITZIKOSTAS Apostolos
European Economic and Social Committee		
European Committee of the Regions		

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
18/12/2025	Legislative proposal published	COM(2025)0773	Summary
27/01/2026	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
03/06/2026	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
15/06/2026	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A10-0174/2026	
07/07/2026	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T10-0241/2026	Summary
07/07/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		
13/07/2026	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
13/07/2026	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
14/07/2026	Final act signed		
17/07/2026	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2025/0407(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 41 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 091
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	TRAN/10/04822

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE785.404	13/04/2026	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE787.943	06/05/2026	

Specific opinion	JURI	PE788.004	12/06/2026	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A10-0174/2026	15/06/2026	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T10-0241/2026	07/07/2026	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Draft final act	00037/2026/LEX	10/07/2026	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2025)0773	18/12/2025	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2026)08-26	26/08/2026	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0125/2026	21/01/2026	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2026/1769
OJ OJ L 17.07.2026 Summary

Empowering Austria to amend its existing bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland with a view to authorising cabotage operations in the course of the provision of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries

2025/0407(COD) - 18/12/2025 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to empower Austria to amend its existing bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland in order to authorise cabotage operations in the course of the provision of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries.

PROPOSED ACT: Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the border regions of Austria and Switzerland are closely integrated. Many Austrians commute to work in Switzerland and vice versa and there is vibrant cross-border passenger traffic by road. A number of bus and coach services are offered which cross the border and thus connect the border regions of the two countries.

The two-way carriage of passengers and goods by road between Switzerland and the EU is regulated by the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Carriage of Goods and Passengers by Rail and Road ('Land Transport Agreement').

Currently, the Land Transport Agreement does not authorise any cabotage operations in road passenger transport by coach and bus. However, Article 20(2) of the Land Transport Agreement specifically allows the continued exercise of pre-existing cabotage rights provided there is no discrimination between EU carriers and there will be no distortion of competition. It is therefore appropriate to authorise such operations in the course of the provision of international passenger transport services by coach and bus in the respective border regions of Switzerland and Austria.

CONTENT: the purpose of this proposal is to empower Austria to amend its existing bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland with a view to authorising cabotage operations during the provision of international passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries.

In order to ensure that the cabotage operations concerned do not excessively alter the functioning of the internal market for coach and bus services, as established by Regulation (EC) No 1073/2009, their authorisation should be conditional upon there being no discrimination between carriers established within the Union and no distortion of competition.

For the same reason, cabotage operations should only be authorised in the border regions of Austria in the course of the provision of passenger transport services by coach and bus between Austria and Switzerland, namely the administrative districts of Bludenz, Bregenz, Dornbirn, Feldkirch in the region of Vorarlberg and the district of Landeck in the region of Tyrol.

Empowering Austria to amend its existing bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland with a view to authorising cabotage operations in the course of the provision of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries

2025/0407(COD) - 07/07/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 654 votes to 4, with 1 abstention, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council empowering Austria to amend its existing bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland with a view to authorising cabotage operations in the course of the provision of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries.

The European Parliament adopted its position at first reading, **taking over** the Commission's proposal.

The decision was proposed in response to a request by Austria to empower it in line with Article 2(1) TFEU to amend its bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland of 1958 with a view to authorising cabotage operations during the provision of passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries.

In accordance with Article 20(1) of the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Carriage of Goods and Passengers by Rail and by Road (the ‘EU-Swiss Agreement’), the transport of passengers by coach and bus between two points situated on the territory of the same Contracting Party to the EU-Swiss Agreement by carriers established in the territory of the other Contracting Party, known as cabotage, is not authorised.

Under the decision, Austria is empowered to amend the bilateral road transport agreement between Austria and Switzerland of 22 October 1958 with a view to authorising cabotage operations in the border regions of Austria and Switzerland during the provision of international passenger transport services by coach and bus between the two countries.

Under the Commission proposal, the authorisation is subject to the conditions that there is no discrimination between carriers established within the Union and no distortion of competition. There is also a clearly limited geographical scope of the cabotage operations, as they would only be permitted in the border regions of Austria specified in the text of the proposed decision - administrative districts of Bludenz, Bregenz, Dornbirn, Feldkirch in the region of Vorarlberg and the district of Landeck in the region of Tyrol - in the course of the provision of coach and bus services between Austria and Switzerland.

Empowering Austria to amend its existing bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland with a view to authorising cabotage operations in the course of the provision of international road passenger transport services by coach and bus in the border regions between the two countries

2025/0407(COD) - 17/07/2026 - Final act

Decision (EU) 2026/1769 empowers Austria to amend its 1958 bilateral road transport agreement with Switzerland in order to permit certain cabotage operations during international coach and bus services between the two countries' border regions.

Authorisation for Cabotage Operations

Austria may amend the Austrian-Swiss Agreement to allow cabotage operations, meaning the carriage of passengers between two points within the territory of one contracting party by carriers established in the other party.

The authorisation applies only where cabotage takes place in the course of international passenger transport services by coach and bus between Austria and Switzerland. It is conditional on there being no discrimination against carriers established in the European Union and no distortion of competition.

The Decision reflects the Union's exclusive external competence in this field, since commitments allowing Swiss carriers without a Community licence to carry out cabotage within the Union may affect the EU-Swiss Agreement and the rules governing the internal market for coach and bus services.

Geographical Scope

For the purposes of the authorisation, the Austrian border regions are the administrative districts of Bludenz, Bregenz, Dornbirn and Feldkirch in Vorarlberg, and Landeck in Tyrol.

Notification Requirements and Procedure

Austria must inform the European Commission when it amends the Austrian-Swiss Agreement and provide the text of the amended agreement. The Commission must then inform the European Parliament and the Council.

The Decision was adopted under the ordinary legislative procedure, following the European Parliament's position of 7 July 2026 and the Council's decision of 13 July 2026. It was adopted on 14 July 2026 and published in the Official Journal on 17 July 2026. It is addressed to the Republic of Austria.

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