



Organisation intergouvernementale pour les transports internationaux ferroviaires
Zwischenstaatliche Organisation für den internationalen Eisenbahnverkehr
Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail

**Assemblée générale
Generalversammlung
General Assembly**

**SG-19029-AG 14
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1. In accordance with Article 14 § 3 of the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail of 9 May 1980, as amended by the Vilnius Protocol of 3 June 1999 (COTIF), the 14th General Assembly met in Berne on 27 February 2019.

2. The following were present or represented at the General Assembly:

2.1 **43 of the 49 Member States**

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom;

2.2 **1 Regional economic integration organisation which has acceded**

European Union (EU).

3. In accordance with Article 8 of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretary General ad interim provided the Secretariat.

4. The **General Assembly** elected:

as Chair: Mr Vytautas Naudužas (Lithuania)

as first Vice Chair: Mr Peter König (Switzerland)

and

as second Vice Chair: Mr Andreas Polakis (Greece)

5. The **General Assembly** set up the following committees with the following members:

5.1 **Credentials Committee**

Chair: Mr Patriks Markēvičs (Latvia)

Vice Chair: Ms Ilona Vehman (Hungary)

Members: Azerbaijan, North Macedonia, Norway

5.2 **Editorial Committee**

Chair: Mr Jean-Marc André (France)

Co-Chairs: Mrs Christine Ehard (Germany)

Mr Benn Hall (United Kingdom)

Members: Austria, Belgium, Finland

6. The **General Assembly** held its discussions on the basis of its Rules of Procedure as applicable from 25 September 2018.

7. **The General Assembly:**

7.1 adopted its agenda;

7.2 gave all candidates the possibility of presenting their applications in person in the plenary session for a maximum of 15 minutes;

gave delegates 15 minutes to ask the candidates questions after each presentation;

7.3 elected Mr Wolfgang Küpper (Germany) as the Secretary General for the period from 8 April 2019 to 31 December 2021 and authorised the Chair to sign the letter of appointment and hand it to the elected Secretary General;

7.4 adopted the profile of qualifications for the post of Secretary General of OTIF for the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, as set out in Annex 1;

decided that in the procedure for the election of the next Secretary General, all candidates for the post will have the opportunity of presenting their applications personally at the next ordinary session of the General Assembly;

decided that in addition to the requirements in accordance with COTIF and the Secretariat's Staff Regulations, the call for applications for the post of Secretary General must stipulate that applications will only be accepted if they are submitted by Member States and concern nationals of a Member State, although these need not necessarily be nationals of the proposing Member State;

instructed the Secretary General to publish the call for applications for the post of Secretary General for the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024 by 1 December 2020. The deadline for applications shall be four months after the date of the call for applications, i.e. 1 April 2021.

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The Secretary General ad interim will send a copy of this final document, adopted by the General Assembly on 27 February 2019, to the governments of the OTIF Member States and to the regional organisations that have acceded to COTIF.

Annex 1: Profile of qualifications for the post of Secretary General of OTIF.

Annex 1

Profile of qualifications for the post of Secretary General of OTIF

1. Nationality of an OTIF Member State, but not necessarily the nationality of the proposing Member State.
2. An individual with many years professional experience in different areas of activity and who has demonstrated ability in a position of major responsibility.
3. Knowledge of all three working languages of OTIF (English, French, German), with the ability to draft easily and fluently in one of the working languages. Applicants should be able to express themselves sufficiently well in the other two languages so that they can lead negotiations and draft comprehensibly.
4. Holder of a degree in a discipline relevant to the work of OTIF, preferably in law and political science; knowledge of international public law, rail transport law, the carriage of dangerous goods, rail transport in general and transport logistics would be an advantage.
5. Proven ability to head an administration such as that of the OTIF Secretariat, using modern information technology, several years' experience in personnel management on the basis of general principles and specific rules of personnel law and the ability to head the Organisation's financial affairs.
6. Knowledge of how international organisations function, diplomatic negotiations and professional experience in the international transport sector.
7. Ability to represent OTIF effectively in the Member States, at international level – particularly at conferences – and in public. Ability to speak at international conferences.
8. Comprehensive understanding of economic correlations and processes (including in the international context) and a proven interest in the transport sector and railways. Experience in legislative activities is necessary.
9. At least ten years professional experience, preferably in a State administration, an international organisation, an international association, an undertaking working in the international transport sector or from a teaching and research background. Applicants should have at least ten years experience in the international field, during which they must be able to demonstrate that they have undertaken activities with major decision-making responsibilities.
10. Lengthy experience of international negotiations; candidates must also be able to deal with a very high workload and be willing to undertake numerous and demanding official journeys.

The Secretary General should also be a dynamic team player, forward-looking, approachable and decisive, with a track record of working with other cultures. Applicants must also have the ability to develop political, legal, institutional and financial concepts.