



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

**Commission de révision
Revisionsausschuss
Revision Committee**

**LAW-17109-CR 26
26.09.2017**

Original: EN

**TO THE MEMBER STATES OF OTIF AND TO REGIONAL
ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE ACCEDED TO COTIF**

**26th Session of the Revision Committee
Berne, 27 February – 1 March 2018**

Invitation, provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda

In accordance with Article 16 § 2 of COTIF, the Secretary General is convening the 26th session of the Revision Committee from

Tuesday, 27 February to Thursday 1 March 2018,

at the

**Universal Postal Union
Weltpoststrasse 4
3015 Berne
Switzerland.**

The session will begin on Tuesday, **27 February 2018 at 10.00** and will finish on Thursday, **1 March 2018 at 15:00**.

Rules of Procedure

The rules concerning the Revision Committee are set out in Articles 16 and 17 of COTIF and in the Committee's Rules of Procedure (version applicable as from 23.6.2009), which are available on OTIF's website (www.otif.org) under:

About OTIF > Committees > Revision Committee.

Languages

The working languages will be French, English and German, with simultaneous interpretation.

Agenda

The provisional agenda (see doc. LAW-17110-CR 26/3.1), annotated provisional agenda (see doc. LAW-17111-CR 26/3.2) and an indicative plan of work (see doc. INF.1) are attached to this circular.

In accordance with Article 9 § 1 b) of the Revision Committee's Rules of Procedure, a member of the Revision Committee or an invited observer may request that an issue be placed on the agenda, provided it is notified to the Secretary General at least ten weeks before the meeting, i.e. by **19 December 2017** at the latest.

Documents

The main documents regarding revision issues prepared by the Secretariat will be sent by no later than 27 October 2017. In any case, all documents relating to the meeting will be sent to the Member States, in accordance with Article 8 § 2 of the Rules of Procedure, not less than two months before the opening of the meeting.

In accordance with Article 11 § 3 of the Rules of Procedure, the Secretary General must also receive documents, including any proposals or suggestions on texts to be amended, not less than 10 weeks before the meeting, i.e. by **19 December 2017**. Documents comprising not more than 200 lines of text, containing no drawings or illustrations and established in more than one working language, must be submitted 4 weeks before the meeting, i.e. by **30 January 2018** at the latest.

All the documents will be placed on OTIF's website (www.otif.org) under:

Activities > Revision Committee > Working Documents.

Voting rights and quorum

All COTIF Member States are members of the Revision Committee with regard to general issues and revision of the Convention itself. However, as the Revision Committee will deal, among other things, with the revision of Appendices E (CUI), F (APTU) and G (ATMF) of the Convention, the Secretary General would particularly like to draw the attention of Member States to Article 16 § 1 of COTIF. When the Committee discusses and takes decisions on amendments to these Appendices, only those Member States of OTIF which have not made a declaration concerning these Appendices in accordance with the first sentence of Article 42 § 1 of COTIF will be members of the Committee and will have the right to vote (see doc. INF. 2). The Member States that are not members of the Revision Committee will be able to participate in the discussions on these agenda items in an advisory capacity.

As no formal decisions can be taken if there is no quorum in the Revision Committee, it is very important that the members of this Committee are represented at the session. In accordance with Article 16 § 3 of COTIF, Member States that are unable to participate in the session may be represented by another Member State. A model proxy is attached.

Regional economic integration organisation – European Union

In accordance with Article 38 §§ 2 and 3 of COTIF the regional organisation may exercise the rights enjoyed by its members by virtue of the Convention to the extent that they cover matters for which it is competent. For the purpose of the exercise of the right to vote, the regional organisation shall enjoy the number of votes equal to those of its members which are also Member States of OTIF. In accordance with Article 6(4) of the Accession Agreement, the European Union will inform the Secretary General of those agenda items in respect of which it will exercise the voting rights. The Secretary General will circulate this information to the members of the Revision Committee and observers as soon as he receives it.

Experts

The Secretary General has also invited two experts, Professor Freise and Professor Brölmann, who provided their legal analyses to working groups, the results of which will be dealt with by the Revision Committee.

Observers

States which have expressed their interest or might be interested in acceding to COTIF and organisations interested in OTIF's activities are invited as observers. For the time being, the Secretary General has not received any objections regarding the invitation of these two categories of observers. They will be invited, subject to any objections which may be lodged, according to circular LAW-17048 dated 24 April 2017, by the end of September 2017.

Registration

In order to organise the session efficiently, Member States, regional organisations that have acceded to COTIF and observers invited to the session are asked to let the Secretary General know the names and functions of their representatives, using the registration form attached.

The completed form should be returned to the Secretary General by **1 February 2018 at the latest**. The registration form can also be found on OTIF's website (www.otif.org) under:

Events > Registration form

Yours faithfully,



(François Davenne)
Secretary General

Annexes:

- Provisional agenda – doc. LAW-17110-CR 26/3.1
- Annotated provisional agenda – doc. LAW-17111-CR 26/3.2
- Indicative plan of work – doc. INF. 1
- Table “Membership of COTIF and application of Appendices E, F and G (CUI, APTU and ATMF)” – doc. INF. 2
- Practical information, including a map showing the location of the Universal Postal Union – doc. INF. 3
- Proxy model
- Registration form

INDICATIVE PLAN OF WORK**Tuesday, 27 February 2018**

1. Opening the meeting and establishing the quorum
2. Election of chair and vice chair
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Modification of the Rules of Procedure
5. Partial revision of the base Convention: amendment of the procedure for revising COTIF
6. Partial revision of the CIM UR – Secretary General’s report

Wednesday, 28 February 2018

7. Partial revision of the CUI UR
 - Draft texts from the Secretary General resulting from the work of the CUI UR working group
 - Procedural issues associated with modifications to the CUI UR
8. New Appendix H regarding the safe operation of trains in international traffic
 - Draft text from the Secretary General for the new Appendix H resulting from the work of the Committee of Technical Experts
 - Modifications to the base Convention relating to the adoption of the new Appendix H
9. Partial revision of the ATMF UR
10. Partial revision of the APTU UR

Thursday, 1 March 2018

11. General discussion regarding the need to harmonise access conditions
12. Any other business
 - Information from the Secretary General on the Secretariat’s other activities
 - Information from interested observers
 - Future participation of observers

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**MEMBERSHIP OF COTIF
AND APPLICATION OF APPENDICES (CUI, APTU and ATMF)
as at 26.09.2017**

	State	COTIF membership	CUI	APTU	ATMF
1	Albania	x	x	x	x
2	Algeria	x	x	x	x
3	Armenia	x	x	x	x
4	Austria	x	x	x	x
5	Azerbaijan	x			
6	Belgium	x	x	x	x
7	Bosnia and Herzegovina	x	x	x	x
8	Bulgaria	x	x	x	x
9	Croatia	x	x	x	x
10	Czech Republic	x	x	x	x
11	Denmark	x	x	x	x
12	Estonia	x	x	x	x
13	Finland	x	x	x	x
14	France	x	x	x	x
15	Georgia	x			
16	Germany	x	x	x	x
17	Greece	x	x	x	x
18	Hungary	x	x	x	x
19	Iran	x	x	x	x
20	Iraq	suspended			
21	Ireland	x	x	x	x
22	Italy	x	x	x	x
23	Jordan	associated			
24	Latvia	x	x	x	x
25	Lebanon	suspended			
26	Liechtenstein	x	x	x	x
27	Lithuania	x	x	x	x
28	Luxembourg	x	x	x	x
29	FYR of Macedonia	x	x	x	x
30	Monaco	x	x	x	x
31	Montenegro	x	x	x	x
32	Morocco	x	x	x	x
33	Netherlands	x	x	x	x
34	Norway	x	x	x	x
35	Pakistan	x			
36	Poland	x	x	x	x
37	Portugal	x	x	x	x
38	Romania	x	x	x	x
39	Russia	x			
40	Serbia	x	x	x	x
41	Slovakia	x	x	x	x
42	Slovenia	x	x	x	x
43	Spain	x	x	x	x
44	Sweden	x	x	x	x
45	Switzerland	x	x	x	x
46	Syria	suspended			
47	Tunisia	x	x	x	x
48	Turkey	x	x	x	x
49	Ukraine	x	x	x	x
50	United Kingdom	x	x	x	x
Total for the purpose of quorum		46	42	42	42

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Visa

Delegates must be designated by the competent authorities of their government and must inform the OTIF Secretariat of this before making a request for an entry visa to Switzerland, accompanied by the documents requested, to the nearest Swiss Embassy or Consulate.

Delegates who require help to obtain their visa from the OTIF Secretariat are kindly requested to do so at least **six weeks** before the date of the meeting, i.e. by **16 January 2018**. The OTIF Secretariat will then be able to support visa requests and visas can be issued in good time.

Accommodation

A list of hotels in Berne is available under:

<https://www.bern.com/en/where-to-stay>

Information on hotels in Berne can also be obtained from the Berne Tourist Office:

Tourist Information Centre, Main Station
Bahnhofplatz 10a
CH - 3011 Berne
Tel. +41 (0)31 328 12 12

Public transport in Bern

Just outside the main railway station you will find the tram station. Take tram line 8 in the direction "Saali" from platform B. Get out at the 7th stop called "Weltpostverein". You will find the building of the Universal Postal Union on your left hand side in the direction of travel. From the main entrance directions to the OTIF meeting room will be provided. Please see also the attached map showing the location of the Universal Postal Union.

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MAP SHOWING HOW TO GET TO UPU

