

OTIF



**ORGANISATION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR
LES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX FERROVIAIRES**

**ZWISCHENSTAATLICHE ORGANISATION FÜR DEN
INTERNATIONALEN EISENBAHNVERKEHR**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR INTER-
NATIONAL CARRIAGE BY RAIL**

OTIF/RID/CE/2009/5

28 August 2009

Original: German

RID: 47th Session of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
(Sofia, 16 - 20 November 2009)

Subject: Exchange of experiences for recognised experts in accordance with 6.8.2.4.6

Proposal transmitted by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. RID 6.8.2.4.6 says that in order to introduce and to continue to develop harmonised inspection procedures, and in order to ensure a uniform level of inspections, the secretariat of OTIF must arrange an exchange of experiences at least once every year.
2. In accordance with this provision, which was included in RID in 2005, an exchange of experiences was held on 29 and 30 August 2006 in Leipzig and on 13 May 2008 in Berne. The meetings to exchange experiences that the secretariat had planned for 2007 and 2009 had to be cancelled because not enough topics for discussion were submitted by the Member States.
3. Even before this provision was included in RID, Germany had initiated multilateral special agreement RID 4/2002, which implemented the provisions of the later 6.8.2.4.6 in advance, at least in the signatory States. Apart from Germany, this special agreement was signed by Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland. In the context of this multilateral special agreement, Germany took on the task of organising an exchange of experiences once a year. An exchange of experiences was held in Bonn on 17 and 18 December 2003. Two other meetings Germany was considering for 2004 and 2005 also had to be cancelled because of the lack of subjects to be discussed.

For reasons of cost, only a limited number of copies of this document have been made. Delegates are asked to bring their own copies of documents to meetings. OTIF only has a small number of copies available.

4. In retrospect therefore, it can be seen that neither Germany nor the secretariat were in a position to meet their obligation under the multilateral special agreement or RID respectively to organise an exchange of experiences at least once a year.
5. Without wishing to question the use of the exchange of experiences, the secretariat suggests that 6.8.2.4.6 be reworded so that it better reflects the real situation so far.

Proposal

6. **6.8.2.4.6** Amend the last sub-paragraph to read:

“In order to introduce and to continue to develop harmonised inspection procedures, and in order to ensure a uniform level of inspections, the secretariat of OTIF shall, when necessary, arrange an exchange of experiences ~~at least once every year.~~”
