TO THE MEMBER STATES AND ASSOCIATED MEMBERS OF OTIF AND TO REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE ACCEDED TO COTIF

12th Session of the RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group

(Berne, 25 and 26 May 2020)
1. At the 11th session of the RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group (Vienna, 25 to 28 November 2019), it was agreed to hold the 12th session on 25 and 26 May 2020 (see report OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2019-A, paragraph 91). Directly after this meeting, the 56th session of the RID Committee of Experts should be held on 27 May 2020. At this session, all the amendments that are due to enter into force on 1 January 2021 are to be adopted.

2. Unfortunately, we are not currently in a position to predict whether these two meetings will actually take place, owing to the COVID 19 crisis. As Article 8 § 1 of the RID Committee of Experts’ Rules of Procedure requires the Secretary General to send the Member States, the regional organisations, observers and experts an invitation two months before the meeting, it is not possible for us to await developments and send the invitation at a later date.

3. For the reasons given, the Secretary General must reserve the right to cancel the meeting if the Swiss authorities still have relevant instructions in place or issue new instructions; if there is any risk to delegates’ health; if, owing to travel restrictions, it is not possible for all Member States to take part; if, in view of the number of registrations received, the quorum cannot be achieved or if meeting logistics, such as meeting room and interpretation, cannot be provided.

4. The Secretary General will decide whether the meeting is to take place by 1 May 2020 at the latest. In order to avoid possible cancellation charges, when making your travel arrangements you should bear in mind that the meeting may be cancelled.

**TIME OF THE MEETING**

5. The 12th session of the RID Committee of Experts’ standing working group will be held on **25 and 26 May 2020**. The meeting will start on **Monday, 25 May 2020 at 13.30** and will end on **Tuesday, 26 May 2020 at 17.30**.

6. The 56th session of the RID Committee of Experts will take place on 27 May 2020 directly after the 12th session of the standing working group. The invitation to the RID Committee of Experts will be sent separately.

**VENUE**

7. The meeting will be held at:

   Universal Postal Union (UPU)
   Weltpoststrasse 4, CH – 3015 Bern

   The meeting will be held in the “Montgomery Blair” room on the ground floor.

**HOTELS**

8. Hotels in Berne are listed on the following [website](#).
RULES OF PROCEDURE

9. In accordance with Article 22 § 2 of the RID Committee of Experts’ Rules of Procedure, the Rules of Procedure will be applied analogously at meetings of the working groups.

10. In connection with Article 5 § 2 of these Rules of Procedure, the RID Committee of Experts decided to invite the same organisations and associations to the meetings of the RID Committee of Experts as are invited to the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting.


LANGUAGES

12. The working languages will be German, English and French. There will be consecutive interpretation into German and French and simultaneous interpretation into English. As the members of the standing working group who only use Russian have already announced that they will not be attending, there will be no Russian interpretation at this meeting.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

13. Based on the information and proposals available so far the Secretariat of OTIF proposes the following provisional agenda:

ITEM 1: Approval of the agenda
ITEM 2: Presence
ITEM 3: Approval of the corrections proposed by the Secretariat that have to be made to the draft notification texts.
ITEM 4: Interpretation of RID
ITEM 5: Proposals to amend RID
   a) Pending issues
   b) New proposals
ITEM 6: Harmonisation of RID and SMGS Annex 2
ITEM 7: Information from the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)
ITEM 8: Any other business
COMMENTS AND DOCUMENTATION

14. The working documents and informal documents for this session of the standing working group can be downloaded from OTIF’s website.

15. The following topics should be discussed under the various items of the agenda. Further topics may be added on the basis of documents still to be received:

ITEM 2: Even though Article 20 (Quorum) of the Rules of Procedure does not apply to the meeting of this working group, it is requested that as many RID Contracting States as possible take part in order to obtain results that are likely to achieve majority support so that they can be adopted at the 56th session of the RID Committee of Experts on 27 May 2020.

At the 6th session, Mrs Caroline Bailleux (Belgium) was elected as chair of this standing working group until further notice. At the 10th session, Mr Othmar Krammer (Austria) was elected as the deputy chair until further notice.

ITEM 3: As the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting (Berne, 16 to 20 March 2020) had to be cancelled owing to the COVID 19 crisis, the Secretariat will produce a draft version of the notification texts for the 2021 edition of RID on the basis of document OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2019/6 from the last session of the standing working group. This document will contain all the decisions of the working group’s 11th session.

In addition, the Secretariat will produce a document with the corrections that have to be made to this draft version of the notification texts.

If the 108th session of WP.15 (Geneva, 11 - 15 May 2020) takes place, the Secretariat will also produce a document with the decisions of that meeting that might have repercussions for RID.

ITEM 4: So far, no documents are available for this agenda item.

ITEM 5 a): The following document has been announced for this agenda item:

– Updated NHM Codes in Table B of Chapter 3.2 (see report OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2019-A, paragraph 5).

ITEM 5 b): So far, no documents are available for this agenda item.

ITEM 6: So far, no documents are available for this agenda item.

ITEM 7: ERA will submit information on this standing agenda item in an informal document. The Member States are asked to make any requests concerning the content of the information from ERA via the Secretariat.

ITEM 8: So far, no documents are available for this agenda item.

16. Documents with document reference number "OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/..." are available on OTIF’s website.
REGISTRATION

17. Delegates are encouraged to register for the session as usual, by no later than 30 April 2020 using the online form.

TRAVEL TICKETS

18. Those delegates who intend travelling by train are asked to contact the relevant railway networks directly to obtain any facilitated transport services.

Yours faithfully

(Wolfgang Küpper)
Secretary General

cc:

– interested international organisations and associations, as an invitation
railway undertakings, with the request to honour the above-mentioned free travel