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
(Video-conference, 24 to 26 November 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 was to have been held on 27 May 2020. At this session, all the amendments that are due to enter into force on 1 January 2021 were to be adopted.

2. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions for many delegates, the 56th session of the RID Committee of Experts had to be cancelled and the 12th session of the standing working group had to be postponed (see document RID-20009-CE-56).

3. Unfortunately, it now seems to be the case that the rate of infection is again increasing across some Member States and the situation at the end of November cannot be foreseen, so in conjunction with the Chair and Deputy Chair, the Secretariat has decided to hold the 12th session of the standing working group as a video-conference.

4. The United Kingdom, which at the beginning of the year offered to organise the meeting of the standing working group, has said that it understands this decision and has proposed to renew its offer to host a meeting at a later date.

**TIME OF THE MEETING**

5. The 12th session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group will be held from 24 to 26 November 2020 from 09.30 to 12.00 and from 14.00 to 16.30 on each day.

**RULES OF PROCEDURE**

6. 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.

7. On 15 June 2020, a video-conference with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of OTIF’s organs was held to clarify whether valid decisions can be taken at video-conferences on the basis of the rules of procedure of these organs. All the Chairs and Deputy Chairs said that this was the case.

8. 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**

10. The working languages will be German, English and French. In order to ensure the broadest possible harmonisation of RID and SMGS Annex 2 in future, there will also be simultaneous interpretation into Russian for the experts on SMGS Annex 2.

11. Interpretation will be provided using a special interpreting platform. You will receive more information on this at a later date.
PROVISIONAL AGENDA

12. 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: Interpretation of RID
ITEM 4: Proposals to amend RID
   a) Pending issues
   b) New proposals
ITEM 5: Report of the working group on tank and vehicle technology
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

13. 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 57th session of the RID Committee of Experts at the end of May 2022.

At the 6th session, Ms 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: So far, no documents are available for this agenda item.

ITEM 4 a): The following documents have been announced for this agenda item:

– Document from ERA on the equivalence of the terms “operator” and “keeper” (see footnote 5 to the definition of “operator of a tank-wagon” in 1.2.1), taking into account the discussions at the Joint Coordinating Group of Experts (JCGE);

– Document from ERA on the ability of tank-wagons to withstand the stresses which occur during carriage by rail (see footnote 1 to
6.8.2.1.2), taking into account the discussions at the Joint Coordinating Group of Experts (JCGE);

– Document on the decisions of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint meeting’s informal working group on the testing and certification of tanks and suitability for tank-wagons, taking into account the discussions at the Joint Coordinating Group of Experts (JCGE).

ITEM 4 b): So far the following document has been submitted for this agenda item:

– SG-20008: Monitoring and assessment of OTIF’s legal instruments

ITEM 5: The results of the 18th session of the RID Committee of Experts’ working group on tank and vehicle technology (video-conference, 6 and 7 October 2020) will be discussed under 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.

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

REGISTRATION

15. It will only be possible to take part in this video-conference with a personal link that will be sent out before the meeting. Please therefore register your attendance by no later than 23 October 2020 using the online form.

Yours faithfully

(Wolfgang Küpper)
Secretary General

cc:
– interested international organisations and associations, as an invitation