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

57th Session of the RID Committee of Experts

(Berne, 24 May 2022)
1. At the 13th session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group (Geneva/hybrid, 15 to 18 November 2021), it was agreed to hold the 57th session of the RID Committee of Experts on 25 May 2022 directly after the 14th session of its standing working group (Berne, 23 and 24 May 2022) (see report OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2021-A, paragraph 63).

2. In view of the fact that few documents other than those for the 2023 revision of RID have been announced, it was agreed with the Chair, Ms Caroline Bailleux, and the Vice-Chair, Mr Othmar Krammer, to shorten the 14th session of the standing working group to one day and to bring the 57th session of the RID Committee of Experts forward by one day.

**TIME OF THE MEETING**

3. The 57th session of the RID Committee of Experts will be held on 24 May 2022. The meeting will start at **09:30 CEST** and will end at **12:30 CEST latest**.

4. This session of the RID Committee of Experts will be held after the 14th session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group (Berne, 23 May 2022). The invitation to the standing working group will be sent separately.

5. The 57th session of the RID Committee of Experts will be held as a hybrid meeting which delegates may attend in person or take part in remotely.

6. The Swiss authorities lifted nearly all restrictions in relation with the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, international conferences are no longer subject to restrictions on access, distance, hygiene, the obligation to wear a mask or data collection. Hosts or organisers may decide to require the wearing of masks or to impose other restrictions on access to certain places or events, in particular if this is necessary to ensure the protection of those present.

7. For the RID Committee of Experts, it has been decided that all meeting attendees are required to wear a face mask at all times whilst in indoor public spaces and in the meeting room, including when seated.

8. Depending on the situation in terms of infections, the Swiss health authorities may also impose stricter measures at short notice before the meeting, which may further restrict personal participation or make it impossible. If you decide to attend in person, we recommend that you organise your travel in such a way that bookings can be cancelled at any time.

9. The website of the [Swiss Federal Office of Public Health](https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/medizin/gesundheit_in_switzerland/corona_infektionskrankheiten.html) contains more information about the current requirements for entering Switzerland. We will inform you of the current status around two weeks before the meeting. At that time, we will also provide you with the access details to attend the meeting remotely.
VENUE

10. The meeting will be held at the:

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

The meeting will take place in the "Heinrich von Stephan" room on the first floor.

HOTELS

11. Hotels in Berne are listed on the following website.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

12. This session of the RID Committee of Experts will be held under the conditions of the Rules of Procedure of the RID Committee of Experts adopted at the 42nd session (document A 81-03/501.2006/Add.3).

13. 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.

14. In accordance with Article 11 § 3 of the Rules of Procedure, official proposals must be submitted by no later than 8 April 2022. Owing to the shorter duration of the RID Committee of Experts, these proposals will be examined beforehand by the 14th session of the standing working group (Berne, 23 May 2022).

LANGUAGES

15. The working languages will be English, French and German. There will be consecutive interpretation into French and German and simultaneous interpretation into English.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

16. 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 and quorum

ITEM 3: Election of the Chair

ITEM 4: Approval of the amendments to RID suggested by the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group (video-conference, 24 - 26 November 2020, Geneva/hybrid, 15 to 18 November 2021 and Berne/hybrid, 23 May 2022) for a date of entry into force of 1 January 2023.

ITEM 5: Any other business
COMMENTS AND DOCUMENTATION

17. Taking into account the results of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting (Berne, 14 – 18 March 2022), the Secretariat will prepare a draft version of the notification texts for the 2023 edition of RID on the basis of document OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2021/5 from the last session of the standing working group, which will include all the decisions of the 13th session of the working group and the final decisions of the Joint Meeting.

Following the 14th session of the standing working group (Berne, 23 May 2022), the Secretariat will also prepare a document setting out the decisions on the above-mentioned draft version of the notification texts.

18. The working documents and informal documents for this session of the RID Committee of Experts can be downloaded from OTIF’s website.

REGISTRATION

19. Delegates are kindly requested to register their attendance as usual by no later than 29 April 2022 using the online form. This is particularly important, as remote participation is only possible with a personal link that will be sent before the meeting. If you do not register in time, there is a risk that you will not receive the necessary information in time.

Please remember that for a quorum in the RID Committee of Experts in accordance with Article 20 § 1 of the Rules of Procedure, one third of the RID Contracting States must be present, and that Article 4 § 1 of the Rules of Procedure also allows States to be represented by another RID Contracting State.

TRAVEL TICKETS

20. 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