



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

Secrétaire général
Generalsekretär
Secretary General

NOT- 24006
26.04.2024

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

Depositary Notification

China – application for accession as an Associate Member of OTIF

In his capacity as the Depositary, the Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) notifies you of the following information:

The People's Republic of China deposited an application for accession to OTIF as an Associate Member in accordance with Article 39 of COTIF. Article 39 only stipulates one substantial condition in order to become an Associate Member, which is met by the People's Republic of China, i.e. the operation of railway infrastructure on the territory of the state concerned. An Associate Member is not a contracting party to COTIF. An Associate Member may participate in the work of the organs of OTIF, except the Administrative Committee, in an advisory capacity, and must pay contributions to OTIF.

The instrument of application for accession as an Associate Member of OTIF, dated 27 March 2024, is signed by the Administrator of the National Railway Administration of the People's Republic of China, Mr Fei Dongbin. A note on the functions of the National Railway Administration (NRA) of the People's Republic of China was attached to the instrument.

Article 37 §§ 2 to 5 of COTIF apply by analogy to the procedure for accession as an Associate Member of OTIF. However, it should be noted that acts for the purpose of becoming an Associate Member may be executed by the Head of State, the Head of Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs or other competent state authorities without having to submit full powers.

The Member States may lodge objections to this application with the Depositary within a period of three months from the date of this notification, i.e. until 26 July 2024. Unless five Member States lodge objections with the Depositary within said period, the application is deemed to be accepted. In accordance with the third sentence of Article 37 § 3 of COTIF, the accession shall take effect on the first day of the third month following the Depositary's notification to the Member States that the application has been accepted.



(Wolfgang Küpper)
Secretary General

Annex: Application for accession as an Associate Member of OTIF from the People's Republic of China and note on the functions of the National Railway Administration (NRA) of the People's Republic of China (original versions received only).

cc:

- Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Swiss Confederation
Kalcheggweg 10
CH-3006 Berne
- National Railway Administration of the People's Republic of China
Fuxinglu, 6
100891, Beijing
People's Republic of China

Secretary General
Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF)
Gryphenhübeliweg 30
CH-3006 Bern

**Application of The Government of The People's Republic of China to
become an Associate Member of The Intergovernmental Organisation for
International Carriage by Rail (OTIF)**

Pursuant to Article 39 of the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) of 9 May 1980, as amended by the Modification Protocol of 3 June 1999, the Government of the People's Republic of China herewith applies for associate membership of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF).

I, Mr. Fei Dongbin, Administrator of the National Railway Administration of the People's Republic of China, declare that, if this application is accepted, the Government of the People's Republic of China, having considered the COTIF in its version currently in force, will exercise its rights and fulfill its obligations according to Article 39 COTIF as an Associate Member of the OTIF.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed this instrument of application for associate membership in Beijing on March 27, 2024.



Administrator
National Railway Administration
People's Republic of China

Functions of the National Railway Administration (NRA) of the People's Republic of China

National Railway Administration (NRA) is the Chinese government authority in charge of the railway sector. According to the *Regulations on the Major Functions, Internal Organs and Numbers of Staff of the National Railway Administration* promulgated by the General Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China on March 21, 2013, one of the functions of the NRA is to carry out international exchanges and cooperation between/among governments in the railway sector, and the Department of External Relations of NRA, specifically, is in charge of conducting international exchanges and cooperation. At present, the NRA is an active member of Organisation for Co-operation between Railways (OSJD) and of International Union of Railways (UIC) and engaged deeply in law and rules making in the filed of international passenger and freight transport, transport of dangerous goods and technical interoperability within the framework of OSJD. NRA is also an active participant in the international railway standards development under the framework of International Electro Technical Commission (IEC) and International Organization for Standardization (ISO).