



Memorandum of understanding with the World Customs Organisation

On Monday, 10 July, the Secretary General of the World Customs Organisation (WCO), Mr Kunio Mikuriya, and the Secretary General of OTIF, Mr François Davenne, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

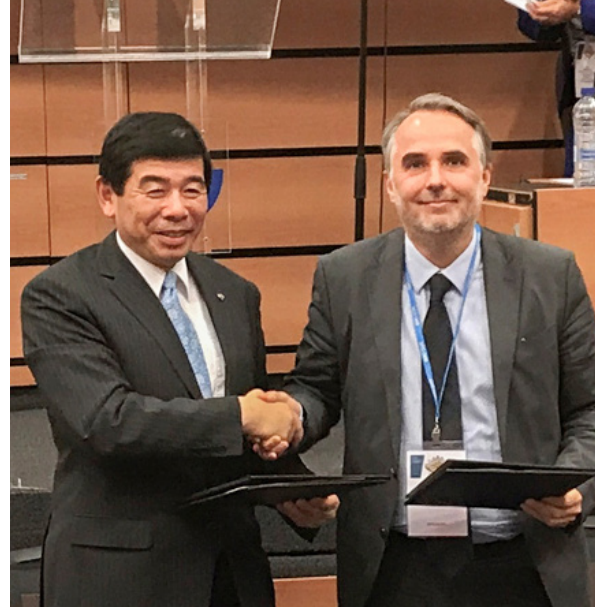
The MoU establishes a framework for dialogue and close cooperation in areas of joint interest to achieve a balance between safety and facilitation.

For some months, WCO and OTIF have wished to strengthen their discussions, particularly with regard to the removal of obstacles to border crossing for international traffic.

Subject to the cause of these obstacles falling within the competence of States, and in view of the importance of rail transport in terms of trade facilitation and regional integration, WCO and OTIF have agreed to define and organise consultations, communicate documents and provide mutual assistance. For example, WCO and OTIF will be able to send representatives to each other's meetings, when they are relevant, in order to discuss how customs questions can be better linked to rail transport.

The Secretaries General of WCO and OTIF signed the MoU in Brussels, Belgium, on the first day of the [Global transit conference](#). Today 11 July, the Secretary General of OTIF is giving a speech as part of the session on “challenges and solutions for efficient transit”.

The Secretariat of OTIF welcomes the signing of this MoU and is looking forward to working productively with WCO.



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