



Competence of the Administrative Tribunal of the Council of Europe extended to staff of the HCCH and OTIF

On 8 December 2017, the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) signed an agreement with the Council of Europe to extend the competence of the Administrative Tribunal of the Council of Europe to the examination of employment-related disputes between these organisations and their staff. The agreement was signed by Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, the Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Mr François Davenne, the Secretary General of OTIF.



The agreement makes provision for an internal appeal procedure – before submitting the case to the Tribunal – which will apply to the staff of OTIF. This is a specific procedure which, in particular, offers the possibility of involving a conciliator during the procedure. The conciliator is nominated by the president of the Administrative Tribunal.

This will enable OTIF to become part of a dynamic in the development of conciliation, which is a modern practice suitable for organisations of a modest size. The Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (CCNR) signed similar agreements on 24 November 2017 and 16 December 2014 respectively.

The information and texts governing the procedure set up under these agreements will be available in the “Affiliated organisations” part of the Administrative Tribunal’s website and for OTIF under [Agreement with Council of Europe](#) and [Job Opportunities](#).