

Revision Committee: the main points

OTIF's Revision Committee has endorsed the development of railway contract law, OTIF's institutional law and rules on technical interoperability.

The 26th Revision Committee was held in Berne on 27 and 28 February under the first-rate chairmanship of Ms Clio Liégeois, the representative of Belgium. The Committee approved three key modifications for the Organisation and decided to submit them to the General Assembly in September 2018 for approval:

- Firstly, the Committee approved the principle of amending Article 34 of COTIF: the aim of this is to shorten the entry into force period for COTIF texts when they have been revised. This amendment will avoid having an excessive time lag between a vote and the entry into force of texts.
- The Committee then adopted the amendment to the Uniform Rules concerning the Contract of Use of Infrastructure in International Rail Traffic (CUI UR). The proposal adopted is the result of a great deal of work that has been carried out since 2014 with the Member States, infrastructure managers and railway undertakings. The aim of this amendment to the CUI UR is to clarify its scope of application and eventually to enable model contracts to be put in place for the allocation of international train paths.
- Lastly, the Committee approved the creation of a new Appendix H concerning the safe operation of trains in international traffic. Based on this new appendix, the Committee of Technical Experts will be able to lay the foundations for proper interoperability beyond the EU.

In addition to these developments in the regulations, the Committee approved the setting up of a standing working group of legal experts, which attracted great interest from participants. They decided to task this group with examining a number of open issues that arose during the Committee.

The Secretariat is pleased with the smooth running and outcome of the meeting. It would like to thank all those states and stakeholders, partner organisations and professional associations that took part and held constructive discussions.

The Revision Committee is a fundamental organ of OTIF; in principle, all the Member States are represented in it.

The Committee starts work once other more technical bodies (Committee of Technical Experts or working groups set up by the Secretary General) have prepared and studied in detail proposals to revise the base convention or the various appendices. Its decision-making scope therefore covers all of OTIF's regulations. Only the revision of the base convention and certain key provisions of the appendices are outside its scope. Nevertheless, these draft amendments are submitted to it anyway so that it can carry out an initial analysis and decide whether or not to submit them to OTIF's supreme organ, the General Assembly.



Contact:
Secretary General
secretary.general@otif.org