



EUMedRail: Belgrade hosts workshop on railway legislation

International railway legislation, cross border rail traffic, railway safety and further cooperation were the main topics of a high-level meeting that took place on 6 and 7 February in Belgrade, Serbia.

This two-day event was organised by the EuroMed Transport Rail Project (EUMedRail) in close cooperation with the Serbian National Safety Authorities and the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF).

The meeting brought together in the Serbian Parliament experts and representatives from the European Commission, OTIF, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Turkey and the EU delegation in Belgrade.

The deputy Prime Minister and Serbian Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Ms Zorana Mihajlovic, gave an opening speech on the cooperation between the EU and Serbia, including the IPA project with the EU Agency for Railways, which tackles the convergence and harmonisation of legislation with the EU to improve infrastructure and safety conditions.

This introduction was followed by a presentation on international railway law from OTIF's representatives. On Wednesday, 7 February the participants debated the development of OTIF specifications for infrastructure and contributed to identifying EUMedRail countries' specific needs. OTIF introduced the CIM and CIV rules, whose state of implementation was illustrated by the practice in Turkey and Serbia. The panel discussion closed with an overview of the state of play in the EU on the implementation of OTIF's dangerous goods regulations. The workshop ended with a visit to the Serbian National Safety Authority.

The EUMedRail project, funded by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement (DG NEAR) of the European Commission, has a budget of 2 million euros for the period between 2017-2020, to provide technical assistance in neighbouring countries: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine (*) and Tunisia.

OTIF is an intergovernmental organisation, a forum dedicated to international rail transport. It has now 50 Member States. OTIF develops unified railway law to connect Europe, Asia and Africa.



Contact:
François Davenne
Secretary.General@otif.org
Peter Mihm
peter.mihm@era.europa.eu