23 March 2018

Amendments to APTU and ATMF adopted

On 27 - 28 February 2018 at its 26th session, the Revision Committee adopted amendments to Appendices F (APTU) and G (ATMF) to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF).

As all Member States of the European Union (EU) with a railway network are also Member States of OTIF, in order to achieve seamless international traffic it is important that the provisions applicable in the EU and COTIF are harmonised. The provisions of APTU and ATMF are accordingly made compatible with the provisions of the European Union's Interoperability Directive 2008/57/EC and with part of the Safety Directive 2009/49/EC.

With the adoption of the fourth railway package, the EU changed several provisions.

On the basis of an analysis shared between the European Commission and the Secretariat, the WG TECH prepared modifications to APTU and ATMF to ensure continued harmonisation with EU law. At its 10th session the Committee of Technical Experts endorsed the proposals for modification, which were subsequently proposed to the Revision Committee for adoption. The basic concepts of APTU and ATMF are not the subject of the modifications. The modifications are necessary in order to harmonise some terminology with new EU provisions and to take into account some procedural changes within the EU, particularly the fact that the EU Agency for Railways will be competent to issue vehicle authorisations.

In his capacity as depositary, on 20 March 2018 the Secretary General notified the adopted amendments.

In accordance with Article 35 § 3 of COTIF, these amendments will enter into force on 1 March 2019, unless Member States formulate an objection by 20 July 2018 (Article 35 § 4 of COTIF)

The adopted texts are published on OTIF's website .

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