



## The Luxembourg Rail Protocol: preparations prior to entry into force

In connection with the latest developments on the Luxembourg Rail Protocol, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), the Rail Working Group, the Protocol's Preparatory Commission and the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) met on Tuesday, 16 July 2019 at the OTIF Secretariat's headquarters in Berne.

The Luxembourg Rail Protocol has been signed by Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France, Mozambique and the United Kingdom and was adopted in 2007. The European Union acceded to it in 2009. The Rail Protocol has so far been ratified by Luxembourg, Gabon and Sweden and in order for it to enter into force, a fourth ratification, which is perhaps imminent, is still required.

UNIDROIT is the depositary of the Rail Protocol and once it enters into force, OTIF will act as the secretariat of the Supervisory Authority.

The very specific aim of the meeting on Tuesday, 16 July was to prepare the future developments that will result from the fourth ratification. A number of actions have to be coordinated over the next few months. For example, the resources necessary to provide the secretariat of the Supervisory Authority.

As was underlined by Professor Veneziano, the deputy Secretary General of UNIDROIT, Mr Howard Rosen, the Chairman of the Rail Working Group, and Mr Peter Bloch, the co-chair of the Preparatory Commission for the Luxembourg Protocol, the next few months will be a crucial time for the Rail Protocol.

The Secretary General of OTIF, Mr Wolfgang Küpper, warmly thanked the various participants for this constructive and successful meeting.



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