# OTIF news

Organisation intergouvernementale pour les transports internationaux ferroviaires
Zwischenstaatliche Organisation für den internationalen Eisenbahnverkehr
Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail

15 April 2020

## RID Committee of Experts' standing working group: postponed
## RID Committee of Experts: cancelled

The Secretariat of OTIF is closely following developments concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and is complying with the recommendations and measures of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Swiss Confederation (Host State). The Secretariat also supports the measures to protect public health that have been implemented by the Member States.

Consequently, following consultation with the chair and vice-chair of the RID Committee of Experts and the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group, the Secretary General of OTIF has taken two decisions:

1. The 12th session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group (25-26 May 2020) has been postponed.
   The 12th session will be held from 23 to 27 November 2020.

2. The 56th session of the RID Committee of Experts (27 May 2020) has been cancelled.
   As a result, the decisions taken by the 10th and 11th sessions of the standing working group will have to be adopted using the written procedure. In addition, in consultation with the UNECE Secretariat, the Secretariat of OTIF will prepare a document setting out necessary corrections to the texts adopted by the 11th session of the standing working group, as well as additional consequential amendments and updated transitional provisions. Following consultation with the states concerned, this document will also be submitted to the States Parties to RID using the written procedure.

The Secretariat of OTIF is aware that these two decisions entail substantial complications for the Member States, but the written procedure is the only solution that will ensure that the amendments to RID enter into force on 1 January 2021 as planned.

For more information: RID-20009-CE-56