

Official visit to Azerbaijan

At the invitation of the Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Rashad Nabiyeu, the Secretary General of OTIF, Mr. Wolfgang Küpper, travelled to Baku for an official 4-day visit.

On 19 July 2022, the Secretary General had a meeting with the Minister.

The Secretary General referred to Azerbaijan's accession to the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) in 2015.

Together they emphasised the central role of Azerbaijan in the development of international East-West transport corridors, as Azerbaijan is becoming increasingly important in Eurasian freight transport in particular. In particular, the Secretary General recalled the benefits of applying COTIF on the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway line, including the relaxation of administrative formalities and time savings. They concluded that Euro-Asian routes for freight trains were becoming increasingly important.

Lastly, the Minister explained recent developments in Azerbaijani railways to the Secretary General. These developments are necessary in order to increase international traffic and are part of the ambitious policy to modernise the more than 2000 km of domestic railways.

Both sides emphasised the important role of international rail transport for the promotion of peace, cooperation and dialogue.

The Secretary General of OTIF, Mr. Küpper, welcomes such a visit and warmly thanks the Minister of Transport, Communications and High Technologies, Mr. Nabiyeu for his welcome, his availability and the quality of their exchange.

