



Ad hoc Committee on Legal Affairs and International Cooperation: 3rd session in London

With the support of the Department for Transport of the United Kingdom, the ad hoc Committee on Legal Affairs and International Cooperation will hold its third session in London from 4 to 6 October 2022. The session will take place as a hybrid meeting. Delegates and representatives of stakeholders who cannot be physically present may participate remotely.

The session will last three days and its agenda includes numerous items.

Among other topics and in accordance with its work programme, the ad hoc Committee will continue to assist the Secretary General in the preparation of OTIF's long-term strategy.

As part of its inclusive and transparent stakeholder involvement policy for the promotion of the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) and the development of railway law, the ad hoc Committee will also consider the draft guidelines on cooperation with international intergovernmental organisations, which aim at enhancing stakeholder involvement within OTIF.

The ad hoc Committee will then consider the draft guidelines on the procedures to be followed by the General Assembly and Revision Committee for the modification of COTIF 1999.

Subsequently, participants at the meeting will take part in two round-table discussions on rules concerning electronic railway transport documents and on rules concerning negotiable transport documents. Based on the results of the surveys carried out, the ad hoc Committee will decide on any follow-up actions.

OTIF is an intergovernmental organisation dedicated to international rail transport. It has been active since 1893 and is the oldest international organisation in the sector. It now has 50 Member States and 1 Associate Member. OTIF has its headquarters in Berne, Switzerland, and develops unified railway law to connect Europe, Asia and Africa.

The ad hoc Committee on Legal Affairs and International Cooperation was set up for a period of three years (September 2021- September 2024) by OTIF's General Assembly.

What does it do?

- It prepares draft amendments or supplements to the COTIF Convention;
- It provides legal advice on its own initiative or at the request of the OTIF organs;
- It promotes and facilitates the functioning and implementation of COTIF;
- It monitors and assesses legal instruments;
- It takes decisions on cooperation with other international organisations and associations, including establishing and dissolving consultative contact groups with other international organisations and associations and monitoring the functioning of contact groups.

