



## High level meeting on Euro-Asian traffic

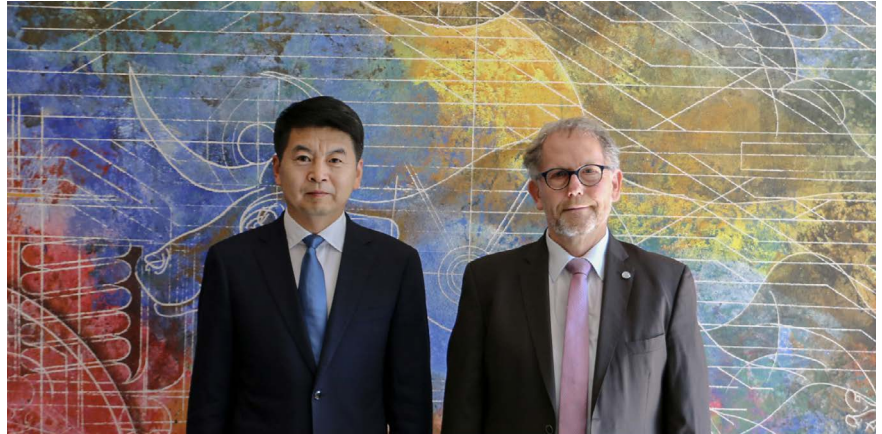
On Monday 19 June 2023, a delegation from China's National Rail Administration (NRA) visited the headquarters of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) in Berne.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss latest developments within the NRA and OTIF. Under the Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) signed in 2016, the two institutions agreed to cooperate on major Euro-Asian rail traffic issues such as connectivity, interoperability and the development of international rail transport between Asia and Europe.

The Director of the NRA, Mr Fei Dongbin, and the Secretary General of OTIF, Mr Wolfgang Küpper, and their teams were also able to discuss China's possible accession to OTIF.

The Secretariat welcomes this meeting as an important milestone in cooperation with the People's Republic of China.



### The National Rail Administration (NRA)

The National Railway Administration and the Chinese Railway Company were set up to distinguish between administrative and commercial issues in the railway sector. The NRA is responsible for research into railway policy, the development plan, institutional reform and other administrative issues that were the responsibility of the former Ministry of Railways, and is in charge of setting technical standards and monitoring railway safety and the quality of operations and construction. It is also responsible for setting standards for the Chinese railway industry and for intergovernmental cooperation on railways.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2016 sets out the terms of cooperation between OTIF and the NRA, and more specifically includes:

1. Conducting exchanges in terms of regulations on through international railway transport, railway technical standards, transportation corridor layout, etc.;
2. Promoting the use of the common CIM/SMGS consignment note in railway through transport between Asia and Europe, studying problems that occur in using the common consignment note and finding solutions to such problems;
3. Studying problems that occur in the operation of Sino-European freight trains and finding solutions to such problems. The terms of this cooperation form part of China's major "Belt and Road" project.

Developing and improving rail transport between Asia and Europe are key to reviving the Silk Road network for the benefit of all the countries involved.

