



## Ad hoc Committee on Legal Affairs and International Cooperation: 4<sup>th</sup> Session in Berne

The ad hoc Committee on Legal Affairs and International Cooperation will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> session from 18 to 20 April 2023 in Berne. Observers (international organisations and registered stakeholders) are invited to participate on 19 April 2023. The meeting will be in a hybrid format.

There are many items on the agenda, including the discussion of OTIF's draft long-term strategy.

Other items on the agenda are open to observers. Among other points, and in accordance with its work programme, the ad hoc Committee will examine the question of the application of the Uniform Rules concerning the Contract of Use of Infrastructure in International Rail Traffic (CUI UR) to service facilities.

Secondly, the ad hoc Committee will examine the issue of digitalisation in international transport, in particular the digitalisation of freight transport documents. The ad hoc Committee will be invited to consider whether the Uniform Rules concerning the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Rail (CIM Uniform Rules) provide a comprehensive, easily applicable and uniform legal framework for the "paperless" transport of goods. In other words, the question is whether or not the CIM UR need to be revised.

### About OTIF:

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 currently has 50 Member States and one Associate Member. The Organisation is based in Berne and provides unified railway law to connect Europe, Asia and Africa.

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

What does it do?

- it prepares draft amendments or additions to the COTIF Convention
- it provides legal advice on its own initiative or at the request of OTIF's organs
- it promotes and facilitates the functioning and implementation of COTIF
- it monitors and assesses legal instruments
- it takes decisions concerning cooperation with other international organisations and associations, including the establishment and dissolution of consultative contact groups with other international organisations and associations, and it monitors operation of the contact groups.

International associations representing the interests of the railway sector (e.g. passengers, carriers, etc.) as well as academic institutions, academics, researchers and experts in the field of rail transport may apply to the ad hoc Committee for "registered stakeholder" status by submitting an application.

