



## International cooperation: UNECE and OTIF

On Thursday, 25 January, Mr Wolfgang Küpper, the Secretary General of OTIF, welcomed Mr Yuwei Li to the Organisation's temporary premises in Berne. Mr Yuwei Li is the Director of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Sustainable Transport Division.

Mr Francesco Dionori, Chief of Transport Networks and Logistics Section in the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division, Ms Lunesterline Andriamahatahity, Mr Jochen Conrad, Mr Aleksandr Kuzmenko and Mr Bas Leermakers, OTIF's heads of department, also took part in the meeting.

The meeting was held within the framework of the long-standing and effective cooperation between the two organisations.

The meeting was mainly of an informative nature, but also looked to the future and provided an opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues relating to international rail transport.

After discussing the major meetings that will take place throughout 2024, Mr Küpper and Mr Li welcomed the work on harmonisation and the close cooperation in the area of dangerous goods, particularly the twice-yearly RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting.

The participants then emphasised the need for a regular exchange of information concerning the permanent identification of railway rolling stock (URVIS system) in the context of the Luxembourg Protocol. The Luxembourg Protocol will enter into force on 8 March 2024 and OTIF will become the secretariat of the Supervisory Authority, which will supervise operation of the International Registry of railway rolling stock.

With regard to legal matters, discussions then turned to international rail freight transport and the related various legal systems.

The last item on the agenda concerned technical interoperability in international rail transport, on which the OTIF Secretariat gave a presentation.

The Secretary General of OTIF welcomed this meeting and would like to thank the Director of the UNECE Sustainable Transport Division for coming to Berne and for the quality of the discussions.

