

OTIF



**ORGANISATION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR
LES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX FERROVIAIRES**

**ZWISCHENSTAATLICHE ORGANISATION FÜR DEN
INTERNATIONALEN EISENBAHNVERKEHR**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR INTER-
NATIONAL CARRIAGE BY RAIL**

**Press Release
10.08.2010**

Kingdom of Belgium appoints permanent representative to OTIF

The Belgian Ambassador in Switzerland, H.E. Marc Van Craen ¹, was appointed as Belgium's permanent representative to OTIF. After the Kingdom of Spain, this is the second Member State which is using this explicit mandate from the capital to follow and contribute actively to the work of OTIF *in situ*, thereby fully exploiting the potential offered by the diplomatic environment in Berne.

Permanent representatives represent their country at international governmental organisations in the same way as Embassies do in their host countries. The Belgian Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation will now represent his country at OTIF, which also has its headquarters in Berne.

¹ See Curriculum Vitae, p. 2

CURRICULUM VITAE

H.E. Marc Van Craen

Since August 2009: Ambassador in Berne

Former posts in the diplomatic service

- September 2005 – July 2009: Ambassador in Copenhagen.
- October 1996 – May 1998: Ambassador in Indonesia.
- August 1994 – September 1996: Ambassador in Burundi.
- September 1990 – August 1994: Deputy permanent representative of Belgium to the United Nations Organisation and consul general of Belgium in Geneva.
- January 1983 – September 1990: Press advisor in the cabinet of his late Majesty King Baudouin.
- August 1979 – August 1982: Embassy Secretary at the Belgian Embassy in Beijing responsible for promoting Belgian foreign trade and studying the Chinese economy.
- January 1978 – December 1978: Attaché to the Belgian Embassy in Tokyo responsible for promoting Japanese investment in Belgium.
- January 1971 – August 1977: Cultural Attaché to the Belgian Embassy in Tokyo.
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Degrees

- Graduate in tourism (Coloma Instituut in Mechelen (Mechlin)) 1967.
- Bachelor of Arts in Far East Area Studies (Sophia University, Tokyo) 1973.
- Master of Arts in International Relations (Sophia University, Tokyo) 1975.