

OTIF



**ORGANISATION INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR
LES TRANSPORTS INTERNATIONAUX FERROVIAIRES**

**ZWISCHENSTAATLICHE ORGANISATION FÜR DEN
INTERNATIONALEN EISENBAHNVERKEHR**

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

**Press release
23.11.2010**

Ratification process “reloaded”

Fine tuning of COTIF for EU Member States enters into force

Four years after the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) entered into force, from 1 December 2010 there will no longer be any obstacle to applying Appendices E, F and G¹, including in the Member States of OTIF that are also members of the European Union.

“I would especially like to thank my colleagues who have worked proficiently, creatively and indefatigably on fine tuning the Appendices to the Convention concluded on 3 June 1999”, declared Stefan Schimming, Secretary General of OTIF, today in Berne.

The deputy Secretary General, Dr Gustav Kafka, expressed understanding for the emergence of incompatibilities between EU and OTIF legislation: “in a ratification process lasting seven years, it could of course happen that the European Union unilaterally took incompatible legislative initiatives, while COTIF was waiting to be called forward in Berne.”

In future however, the creation of reliable framework conditions for transcontinental rail traffic – in which the premise for modal shift lies – will depend at international level on achieving the greatest degree of efficiency through constructive cooperation.

OTIF doubtlessly provides the most suitable framework for this.

¹ See OTIF press release 06.08.2010

OTIF in brief

The Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) currently has 46 Member States (Europe, Near/Middle East and North Africa). At present, international carriage by rail on railway infrastructure of around 250,000 km and the complementary carriage of freight and passengers on several thousand kilometres of shipping routes, inland waterways and (in domestic carriage) roads are concerned by the uniform law created by OTIF. The headquarters of the Organisation are in Berne, Switzerland.

For more information, see www.otif.org – [General information](#)

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