

# OTIF



**Press release**  
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## **The four seasons on Gryphenhübeliweg**

### **The early bird catches the worm**

The Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail is looking back at a dynamic year and is looking forward to the numerous challenges and discussions lined up for 2011.

There have been structural changes and replenishment within the Organisation, both in terms of the building and the staff. The creation of new posts and the accompanying infrastructure that is needed has enhanced the Organisation's human resources, translation service and communication work. Following this introductory phase, other new features can be anticipated in 2011.

One direct result of increasing the number of staff was also that the inaugural meeting of the Rail Facilitation Committee was convened in mid November, when it adopted its work programme. At the end of 2012, specific proposals for action will be submitted to the General Assembly.

OTIF has also grown in another respect: the Russian Federation and Montenegro have become full members and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has become an associate member, which brings the number of OTIF's Member States to 46.

In order that the members of OTIF that are also members of the European Union can apply COTIF, which entered into force in 2006, in its entirety, the staff of OTIF have worked with commitment and focus on a one-off project to achieve compatibility between the EU Acquis and COTIF, the results of which entered into force on 1 December.

“We are also very pleased that that in the interests of the rail sector, it has now been possible before the festive season to overcome the incomprehensible obstacles that short-circuited the well-established cooperation between OTIF and ERA”, said the Secretary General of OTIF, Stefan Schimming, in Berne.

**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](http://www.otif.org) – [General information](#)

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