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To: info

cc: Jäggi Françoise

Ref.: TO THE MEMBER STATES OF OTIF AND TO REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE ACCEDDED TO COTIF – A 72-00/506.2015 – CIM Working Group – Minutes of the 1st session (Berne, 9 December 2014)

Good morning

With regard to the meeting of the working group on CIM UR, please find attached Belgium's written position on the revision of Article 6a of CIM.

May I ask you to transmit this to the participants as a meeting room document in order to simplify the discussion?

Thank you.

Yours etc.

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Belgium's position concerning Article 6(a) § 1 for the meeting of the CIM UR working group on 18 March 2015

Belgium supports the proposed addition to § 1 of the new Article 6a of CIM.

However, following consultation with the rail sector, Belgium would like to make the following comment:

Paragraph 1 mentions the obligation for the parties to the contract of carriage who wish to use an electronic consignment note to agree "a technical procedure for the registration and treatment of data, which is operable for all parties interested in the performance of the contract of carriage." This implies that the specifications for the electronic exchange of data between the carriers concerned have to be included in a contract of cooperation between them. In this regard, this new possibility in the scope of application of COTIF must not be allowed to lead to the proliferation of data exchange systems. Such proliferation would have a negative impact on the competitive strength of international rail freight transport. In principle therefore, priority should be given to electronic data exchange through a unique system under COTIF.

"Raildata" is a data exchange system developed by UIC and used by 18 members. This data exchange system was developed under pressure from the EU in the framework of the eRailFreight project and the sector does not wish to discuss a new standard again, now that this is an issue that has been dealt with and which functions.

Consequently, Belgium would like the comment relating to this new Article to say that the proliferation of data exchange systems must be avoided by requiring the parties to agree on this matter.

Proposed amendments to the Explanatory Report

With regard to Article 6 § 1 CIM

"The requirement for the parties to agree a technical procedure for the registration and treatment of data, which is operable for all parties interested in the performance of the contract of carriage, implies that it is up to these parties to lay down in a contract the specifications for the electronic exchange of data between them. In this regard, it is important to avoid the inclusion of this new possibility in the scope of application of COTIF being allowed to lead to the proliferation of data exchange systems. The parties should therefore be encouraged to agree a unique system for the exchange of data in an electronic format."