



RECOMMENDATIONS

OTIF/UIC/ECO Conference on COTIF

Tehran, 11-12 November 2014

The participants in OTIF/UIC/ECO Conference on COTIF:

1. Expressed their appreciation to the Railways of Islamic Republic of Iran, OTIF, UIC and ECO for organizing the Conference in an excellent manner and called for the regular organization of such a Conference at the regional and national level.
2. Emphasized on the continued cooperation of ECO, OTIF and UIC and its significance to facilitate and promote the accession of the ECO Member States that are not parties to the COTIF to this important instrument and recommended that capacity building programme may be organized for those ECO Member States who have already acceded to COTIF for full implementation and joining the Appendices of the Convention.
3. Recommended ECO and OTIF to continue their constructive cooperation to promote, improve and facilitate, in all respects, international traffic by rail, in line with MoU signed between ECO & OTIF in 2009.
4. Recommended ECO and UIC to continue interacting in addressing various issues concerning international transport facilitation and removal of physical and non- physical barriers along ECO routes, in line with MoU between the two organizations.
5. Noted with satisfaction the membership of the Afghanistan Rail Authority (AfRA) to UIC, recommended that a national capacity building Workshop for promoting the UIC related instruments and standards, facilitating the process of accession of Afghanistan to COTIF and other railway related conventions and agreements may be organized.
6. Noted with satisfaction the accession of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to COTIF, recommended that a national capacity building Workshop may be organized to help Pakistan, in implementing CIM and awareness raising of other Appendices of the COTIF.

7. Noted that CIM consignment note would be applied for ECO Container Train on Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul route and encouraged the ECO Member States who are OTIF members to attend OTIF's Working Groups, in particular the CIM working group on 9 December 2014 in Berne which would consider, among other matters, the electronic consignment note to be adopted as standard.
8. Recommended that OTIF would continue working with the UNECE Group of Experts towards Unified Railway Law (GEURL) to develop unified Euro-Asian law for the transport of goods by rail by setting up a unified legal regime for rail transport and called the ECO Member States to participate in the regular meetings of GEURL to be familiarized with ongoing work and contribute to the works of the Group.
9. Recognized the common CIM/SMGS consignment note as a customs and banking document to help in simplifying customs formalities and recommended the application of the common consignment note along the ECO railway routes where enroute countries are applying different legal regimes.
10. Welcomed OTIF' activities to continue supporting the use of the common CIM/SMGS consignment note, as it implements both CIM and SMGS contracts of carriage and facilitates the transport of goods by rail between these two legal regimes and between Asia and Europe.
11. Asked OTIF to continue its work on harmonising RID and Annex 2 to SMGS to facilitate the carriage of dangerous goods by rail between the two legal regimes. In particular, this will help those states which are contracting parties of both regulations, such as Iran.
12. Noting CIV as a proven regime for international passenger traffic, asked Iran and Turkey to continue applying this rule in passenger traffic between their countries. Pakistan was recommended to join CIV.
13. Asked OTIF to keep informed the ECO Member States who are contracting parties to the COTIF regarding amendments of being introduced to the CUV.
14. Noted with satisfaction the interest for the technical appendices of OTIF, ATMF and APTU and concluded that the exchange of information and the participation to the technical working groups of OTIF should be fostered. In particular the admission of vehicle to international traffic is the task of an independent Competent Authority in each contracting state to ATMF. The OTIF expressed its willingness to support and assist its member states in correctly implementing the regulations.

15. Expressed with satisfaction the completion of Turkmenistan segment of Railway project between Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran (KTI) which will be inaugurated on 3rd December 2014, invited the UIC, ECO, international organizations and all relevant stakeholders to facilitate and promote the establishment of the regular freight services along this route.
16. Stressed the importance of ECO rail transport corridors and infrastructure projects along these corridor envisaged in the ECO Railway Development Plan, invited the international organizations and all relevant stakeholders to actively participate in partnership forum which is to be organized jointly by the ECO Secretariat and ECO Trade and Development Bank.
17. Took note of the study being conducted by OTIF on railway facilitation in accordance with OTIF's 2014/2015 Work Programme aimed to identify and analyse the legal obstacles and physical and non-physical barriers that impede seamless international railway freight traffic. While appreciating these efforts, notably along Pakistan-Iran-Turkey corridor with extension to the Europe, OTIF was asked to share the major findings of the study during 12th ECO Heads of Railway Authorities, scheduled for April/May 2015.
18. Appreciated the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and UIC Middle East Office for supporting and conducting the Conference.

Adopted in Tehran on 12th November 2014