



OTIF



Press Release
Berne, 25.10.2011

Intergovernmental Organisation for international Carriage by Rail

Georgia applies for accession

One of the main trans-Caucasian arteries will be subject to the COTIF regime

In a diplomatic Note dated 19.10.2011, the permanent representation of Georgia to the Office of the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva presented Georgia's application for accession to COTIF to the Secretary General of OTIF.

The full Georgian rail network covers more than 1,600 km and is completely electrified. Around 248 km will be subject to the Uniform Rules for the through international transport of passengers and freight by rail (CIV/CIM).

The specific sections concerned are those from the port of Poti to Poti station, from the port of Batumi to Batumi station and the "main artery" of the Georgian section of the Kars-Tbilisi axis from Gardabani to Kartsakhi, which links the Azerbaijani port of Baku on the Caspian Sea to Turkey and Europe. By the time the section still being built on Georgian territory comes into operation at the end of 2012, Azerbaijan's application for accession should also have been received.

This would ensure that the basic conditions for the legal certainty provided by COTIF would be in place for the entire Caucasus region.

But non OTIF Member States, such as China and Kazakhstan, also have a great economic interest in this rail connection in order that they can process their large flows of goods towards Europe using the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars line, and particularly to transport goods to Europe once the Marmaray Tunnel is in operation.

According to speculation in the press, the annual volume of freight carried in the future will be 30 million tonnes.

It is anticipated that once the accession formalities have been completed in summer 2012, Georgia will become the 48th Member State of OTIF.



OTIF in brief

The Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) currently has 47 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 further information see www.otif.org - [General Information](#)

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