



# OTIF



**Press Release**  
**Berne, 24.06.2011**

## **Intergovernmental Organisation for international Carriage by Rail**

### **EU – first regional economic integration organisation in OTIF**

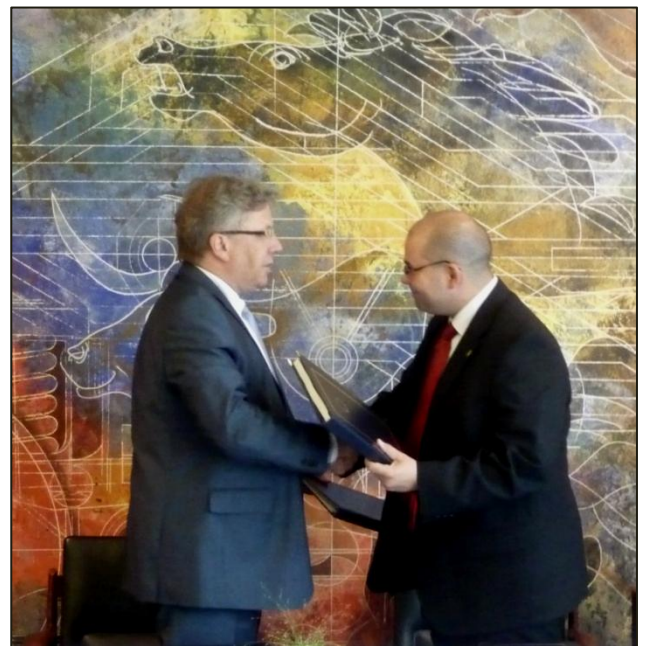
**The Secretary General of OTIF, Stefan Schimming, and the  
Secretary of State at the Hungarian Ministry of Transport,  
Tamás Iván Kovács, set the seal on the accession**

**On 23.06.2011** the accession of the EU to COTIF was concluded by Secretary General Stefan Schimming on behalf of OTIF, and the Hungarian Secretary of State at the Ministry of Transport, Tamás Iván Kovács, on behalf of the European Union.

At the Organisation's headquarters in Berne, they acknowledged the positive signal that would be sent by the accession of a regional economic organisation to the international organisation. This was particularly the case with respect to the European Union's commitment to make a substantial contribution in future to the facilitation of international rail transport between Europe and Asia, from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The time is ripe for the trend towards globalisation and worldwide economic interests to be reflected over a wide area in rail transport policy. OTIF provides the ideal framework for this, as it is also the most balanced in terms of geographical influence.

**The accession will take effect on 1 July 2011, on the same date as the accession of Armenia, the 47th Member State of OTIF.**



**Stefan Schimming**  
OTIF

**Tamás Iván Kovács**  
EU-Presidency



## 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](#)

## Press service

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