



Press release
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COTIF now also applicable in the Caucasus

Armenia: 47th Member State

Armenia's membership is an important step in the process of linking the Caucasus region to Europe. The almost fully electrified network covers 780 km. Owing to the difficult political relationship with its neighbours, Turkey and Azerbaijan, the rail link to Georgia is not just the only international link, it is also the most essential for the country's trade traffic, as it links up with the Black Sea ports of Batumi and Poti.



Since 2009, there has been an agreement between Iran - an OTIF Member State - and Armenia to build a new railway line. In theory, a line already exists, but in practice it cannot be used, as traffic would have to transit through the Azerbaijani exclave of Nachitschewan. At the moment, it looks as if the only way of making an opening to the south is to build a new 410 km railway line through the Armenian mountains using extensive tunnel systems. Work on a feasibility study is underway. The results are due to be published this spring.

After more than 20 years "lock-in", the railway line should help to end Armenia's transport isolation.

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 – [General information](#)

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