



**Press release**  
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## **After 15 months the EU returns to the negotiating table**

### **Accession to COTIF can now take place**

It is a success attributable to Switzerland's mediation. The explanations on the "open points" which the EU (Commission and Member States) denied to OTIF for 15 months were cleared up within 2 hours at the first set of talks.

"I am very pleased that the mediation talks, which were prepared and carried out very professionally, led to a solution to all the critical points", said Stefan Schimming, Secretary General of OTIF, today in Berne. It is all the more incomprehensible why, for 15 months, the representatives of the EU decided to try vigorously to dictate unilaterally amended texts and to link this to various types of "international sanctions". It is now important that all those involved dedicate themselves exclusively to the work on optimising all the framework conditions for the rail sector.

At OTIF's extraordinary General Assembly in Berne on 22 and 23 June 2011, which the Administrative Committee decided to convene at the end of November 2010 on the basis of other factors, the agreement can be sealed and the mandate to sign on behalf of OTIF can be issued.

**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](#)

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