



OTIF



Press Release

Berne, 08.07.2011

**Intergovernmental Organisation
for international Carriage
by Rail**

OTIF and Pakistan explore the significance and process of accession



Stefan Schimming
Secretary General
of OTIF

Muhammad Saleem
Director operations
of Pakistan Railways

Pakistan has taken the political decision to accede to OTIF in the near future. The main aim is to facilitate customs clearance procedures, which have a considerable impact on the economy, particularly the carriage of freight by rail. Forecasts with regard to the chances of success in improving customs clearance procedures for international transport by applying the legal system of the international rail Convention COTIF have a considerable influence on transport planning and the development of the rail network in Pakistan.

The Secretary General of OTIF, Stefan Schimming, and the Director of Operations of the Pakistan railways, Muhammad Saleem, agreed in their talks on 23.06.2011, that close cooperation should be developed in the run-up to accession, so that a maximum of technical efficiency can be achieved as soon as possible. The Embassy of Pakistan in Berne will also play an important role in this respect.



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 more information, see www.otif.org – [General information](#)

Press service

Katja Bürkholz

Tel.: +41.31.359.10.30

Fax: +41.31.359.10.11

E-Mail: Media@otif.org

Website: www.otif.org - [NEWS](#)