



## Legal certainty for Morocco and its neighbours

### Gaps remain an EU speciality

On 28.04.2011 Morocco, as another non-EU Member State of OTIF, deposited its instrument ratifying the Vilnius Protocol with the Secretary General in Berne. Application of the uniform legal regime will mean significant simplification of international rail transport between Morocco and the neighbouring countries of Algeria and Spain.

In the era of rapidly developing high speed passenger traffic and increased goods trade, this ratification is simultaneously a strong signal for the increasing integration of the continents. The Moroccan railway network covers 2109 km.

It is to be hoped that the gaps in legal certainty that exist in cross-border rail traffic within the EU can also be closed in the foreseeable future by the ratification of the Protocol by Ireland, Italy and Sweden.



***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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