



OTIF

Press release

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Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail

OTIF's participation in the 21st Meeting of ECO

The 21st Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held in Tehran on 26 November 2013.

The Council of Ministers (COM) is the highest decision-making body of ECO and is composed of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States. The Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkey, the adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on National Security and Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Economy of Turkmenistan, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan and the ambassadors of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan represented their respective countries at the meeting.

The plenary meeting was inaugurated by Iran's President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. The latter took over the chairmanship of the ECO Council of Ministers from his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov.

This meeting was preceded by the Senior Officials' Meeting on 24-25 November 2013.





After the Memorandum of Understanding, signed in Istanbul on 9 June 2009, and after the successful capacity-building workshop jointly organised by ECO and OTIF in Islamabad in December 2011, OTIF was invited to attend the 21st Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM) of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). OTIF was represented by its Assistant Counsellor, Mrs Eva Hammerschmiedová. This invitation can be considered as a sign of further cooperation between the two organisations, particularly with regard to the international carriage of goods by rail.

Another possible area of future cooperation is the facilitation of border crossing in terms of its administrative and technical aspects. Moreover, all ECO Member States, including those that are not members of OTIF, will be invited to the next meeting of the OTIF Revision Committee, which is scheduled for June 2014.

Among the international organisations attending this meeting were CICA (Conference on Interaction and Confidence building measures in Asia) and D-8. A number of other associations and institutions were also represented.

The next meeting of the Council will be held in Pakistan in the second half of 2014.



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