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Intergovernmental Organisation for international Carriage by Rail

Marrakesh International Seminar (March 2014) The need to renew and strengthen contacts between Morocco and OTIF

Marrakesh, 6 March 2014

The Secretary General of OTIF, **Mr Davenne**, visited Morocco from 5 to 7 March 2014 to take part in the international seminar organised on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Moroccan Railways (ONCF). The event was co-organised by ONCF and the International Union of Railways (UIC). Various actors and partners from Moroccan and international railways also attended the seminar.

This meeting helped renew contacts with our **Moroccan partners**, particularly with **Mr Khlie**, the Director General of the National Office of Moroccan Railways (ONCF).

The round table discussion showed that OTIF should increase its presence in order to make available **its expertise**, particularly in terms of railway technology and

legal issues in connection with interoperability.

In due course, ONCF would like to have **an interconnected and interoperable network that meets international standards**.

The high speed line between Rabat and Tangier will in fact conform to ERTMS standards.

In order to renew productive and useful contacts for Morocco, and more generally for North Africa, the participation of experts from Morocco in the context of the memorandum of understanding between OTIF and ERA was raised.

A seminar between ONCF, the Moroccan Ministry of Transport and OTIF could be organised in Rabat in 2014.

In this respect, Morocco has the ability to develop intermodal transport, particularly for rail-sea freight between the large

ports of Morocco (Tangier, Casablanca, etc.) and European ports (CIM Uniform Rules).

For example, **OTIF's regulations** would make it possible to develop a production and maintenance sector for **"Euro-compatible" wagons** on the basis of the ATMF Rules (technical Appendix to COTIF).

OTIF will provide its expertise to Morocco and to any other State that requires it, in order to improve international rail transport, whether of freight or of passengers.

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