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Press release

East – West Passenger Traffic: Which law is applicable?

Leaflet on COTIF/CIV-PRR – SMPS liability regimes

There is now more clarity in terms of liability for passengers travelling from East to West: A trilingual leaflet by the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT), the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and the Directorate General for Mobility and Transport of the European Commission (DG MOVE) describes the rules of the three liability regimes COTIF/CIV-PRR – SMPS. The electronic version is linked to an [interactive map](#) showing which provisions apply to East-West passenger traffic.

The Leaflet on the COTIF/CIV-PRR-SMPS liability regimes is published in German, English and French. It is a practice-oriented guide for passengers and carriers in East-West traffic. The leaflet was produced by the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT), with the support of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and the European Commission (DG MOVE).

The publication consists of two parts. The maps in Part I show which regulations apply in which countries, and this part also provides an overview of the basic principles of the COTIF/CIV-PRR-SMPS liability regimes. Part II contains for each subject the relevant provisions of the three sets of regulations, COTIF/CIV, PRR and SMPS, together with explanatory comments. The leaflet will also be available on the [CIT website](#) and will be accessible via the [OTIF website](#).

In preparing the leaflet, OTIF contributed to the work on drafting the comments on the provisions of the CIV Uniform Rules and ensured that the text was made available in all three of OTIF's working languages. The drafters were also able to rely on the support of experts from DG MOVE in connection with all issues relating to Regulation (EC) No. 1371/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on rail passengers' rights and obligations (PRR). Experts from railway undertakings that apply the Agreement on International Passenger Transport by Rail (SMPS) in the framework of the Organisation for the Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) also provided their knowledgeable input. Apart from the experts' contributions on the comments, the CIT General Secretariat coordinated the preparation and publication of the leaflet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Davenne', written over a white background.

François Davenne
Secretary General of OTIF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Brand', written over a white background.

Cesare Brand
Secretary General of CIT

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