



Press release

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Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail

Accession of Azerbaijan to COTIF – OTIF's 50th Member State

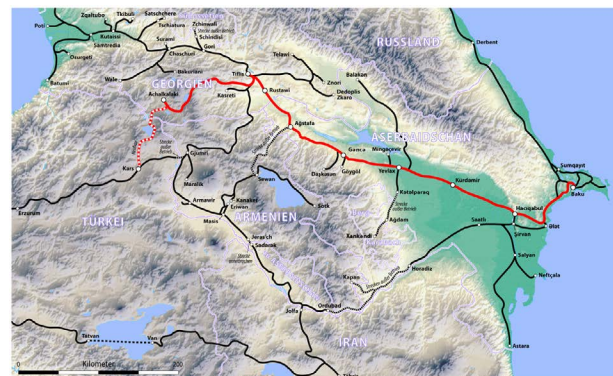
On 6 May 2015, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr E. Mammadyarov, signed the instrument of accession to COTIF. Azerbaijan has land borders with Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Russia and Iran. Situated at the crossroads of the routes linking Asia and Europe, this Caucasus State has a little over 3,000 km of railway lines and electrified lines using 3,000 V (3 kV) DC.



On 8 May 1883, the 550 km railway line between Baku and Tbilisi in Georgia was brought into service. More than a century later, the Baku – Tbilisi – Kars line project will soon link Azerbaijan and Turkey via Georgia.

Azerbaijan's accession to COTIF 1999, including the application of Appendices A, B and C, represents a major step forward for trade between Europe and Asia. It will provide a uniform framework for the international carriage of passengers and

freight by rail between Asia and Europe and in particular for the carriage of dangerous goods.



Azerbaijan is also a member of the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) and by acceding to COTIF, it will be providing a legal framework for the entire Baku – Tbilisi – Kars line.

Following the signing on 6 May 2015, the Republic of Azerbaijan will become the 50th Member State of OTIF. The Organisation is celebrating its 30th anniversary in May 2015, and the Secretariat of OTIF warmly welcomes this accession, and Azerbaijan as the 50th Member State.

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