



# OTIF



**Press release**

**Berne 01.03.2015**

**Intergovernmental Organisation  
for International Carriage by Rail**

## **Italy accedes to the uniform law of COTIF 1999**

Italy, a founding member of OTIF, has now ratified the 1999 version of the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF).

On 5 February 2015 the instrument of ratification was deposited with the Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) in Berne. The text entered into force in Italy on the day on which the instrument was deposited.

The European Union acceded to the 1999 version of COTIF in 2011. Although the Vilnius Protocol modifying COTIF 1980 entered into force in 2006, the Member States have only ratified it successively over a period of time. The accession of the European Union and the new projects that resulted from it have speeded up this process.

With its 16,751 km rail network, its innovative industry and involvement in several European freight corridors, Italy is one of the major railway countries in Europe. Ratification of the Vilnius Protocol now means that COTIF 1999 and its 7 Appendices will apply over the entire rail network in Italy.

This therefore represents a major step forward in terms of legal certainty in international rail transport. It contributes to the development of a coherent area for international rail traffic from both a legal and a technical perspective.

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