



## Committee of Technical Experts

The Committee of Technical Experts (CTE) convened its ninth session on 7 and 8 June 2016 in Bern. Thirty OTIF Member States were present or represented in the Committee. Azerbaijan attended the meeting for the first time as an observer.

The meeting was structured around three main groups of subjects: firstly, reporting on developments since the last session in 2015; secondly, the adoption of amendments to the existing rules and finally, the work plan for the coming period.

The CTE adopted amendments to the UTP freight wagons and the UTP GEN-G on a common safety method (CSM) for risk evaluation and assessment. After the notification process, the OTIF Secretariat will publish the amendments and a consolidated version of the UTPs on the OTIF website.

The CTE agreed on the 2016/2017 work programme, which includes transposing the telematic applications for freight (TAF TSI) into a UTP. However, it should not be mandatory for non-EU Member States to implement this UTP. The UTP TAF should instead ensure that if there are IT investments and developments in the scope of the UTP TAF, these are done in a harmonised and compatible way, so as to facilitate international rail traffic.

In addition, the CTE welcomed the development of specifications to enable interoperability beyond the EU. Although COTIF currently provides for the exchange of freight or passenger vehicles across borders, it does not cover all the requirements needed for the operation of complete trains across borders. The CTE discussed and supported the general ideas and mandated WG TECH to:

1. Identify and analyse the conditions for developing elements relating to interoperability
2. Evaluate which elements can suitably be covered in international law, separated into elements that can be covered by APTU/ATMF and those which would have to be included in a new Appendix to COTIF
3. Draft a roadmap, outlining the main elements and their interactions
4. Report the findings to the next CTE.

For more information: [www.otif.org](http://www.otif.org) > Technology > Committee of Technical Experts.