



Accession of Ireland to COTIF 1999

On 14 April 2016 in Berne, His Excellency the Ambassador of Ireland to Switzerland, Mr Breifne O'Reilly, presented to the Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), Mr François Davenne, the instrument of accession to the 1999 Protocol for the Modification of the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) of 9 May 1980, signed in Dublin by Mr Charles Flanagan, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Submission of the instrument of accession results ipso facto in the entry into force of COTIF 1999 and its seven Appendices in Ireland and specifically on the Irish railway network. Ireland's network has almost 1900 kilometres of 1,600 mm (5 foot 3 inches) gauge lines.

This accession to the 1999 Protocol also means that the Chapter on Ireland will be included in the 1999 CIV and CIM lists of maritime and inland waterway services. The Uniform Rules concerning the Contract of International Carriage of Passengers and Goods by Rail of COTIF 1999 therefore apply to the following CIV lines: Dun Laoghaire – Holyhead, Dublin Port – Holyhead and Rosslare – Fishguard, and to the CIM line Dublin – Liverpool (Seaforth).

Ireland has been a member of the Organisation since 1970 and the Secretariat welcomes this accession.

