



Secretary General

RID-26007-CE59

Distrib: public

27.03.2026

Original: DE

**TO THE MEMBER STATES AND ASSOCIATED MEMBERS OF OTIF AND
TO REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE ACCEDED TO COTIF,
AND TO OBSERVERS**

59th Session of the RID Committee of Experts

Berne (in person), 28 May 2026

Invitation, provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda



In accordance with Article 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the RID Committee of Experts, the 59th session of the RID Committee of Experts' will be held on

28 May 2026

Venue

The session will take place at

**OTIF's headquarters
Gryphenhübeliweg 30
3006 Berne
Switzerland**

Rules of Procedure

The applicable Rules of Procedure of the RID Committee of Experts (RID-24008-CE) are available on [OTIF's website](#).

Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda are attached to this circular as Annex A and Annex B.

According to Article 9 § 2 of the Rules of Procedure, requests to place additional questions on the agenda must be submitted to the Secretary General by no later than **15 April 2026**.

Provisional timetable

The meeting will begin at 14:30 local time in Berne and will end by 17:30 the latest.

Languages

The working languages will be English, French and German. There will be consecutive interpretation into French and German and simultaneous interpretation into English.

Documents

In accordance with Article 8 § 2 of the Rules of Procedure, documents relating to the session will be made available as soon as possible on OTIF's website under:

https://otif.org/en/?page_id=262.

In accordance with Article 11 § 3 of the Rules of Procedure, official proposals and suggestions must be submitted by no later than **15 April 2026**.

Composition and voting rights

The RID Committee of Experts comprises those OTIF Member States which have not made a declaration regarding Appendix C to COTIF in accordance with the first sentence of Article 42 § 1 of COTIF, and regional economic integration organisations which have acceded to the Convention in accordance with Article 38 of COTIF. Member States which have not made a declaration regarding Appendix C to COTIF in accordance with the first sentence of Article 42 § 1 of COTIF are referred to as Contracting States. Member States that are not Contracting Parties are invited to the meeting and may take part in the discussions, but do not have the right to vote.

A list of Member States and whether they apply Appendix C to COTIF is attached as Annex C.

Quorum

In accordance with Article 20 of the Rules of Procedure, there is a quorum in the Committee of Experts when at least one-third of the RID Contracting States entitled to vote are either present or represented.

Representation by proxy

In accordance with Article 3 § 3 of the Rules of Procedure, Contracting States may be represented by another Contracting State and give it their right to vote. However, a Contracting State may not represent more than two other Contracting States. A model proxy is attached as Annex D.

Regional economic integration organisation – European Union

In accordance with Article 38 §§ 2 and 3 of COTIF, regional organisations may exercise the rights enjoyed by its members by virtue of the Convention to the extent that they cover matters for which the regional organisation is competent. For the purposes of exercising these voting rights within the RID Committee of Experts, the regional organisation shall enjoy the number of votes equal to the number of its members that are also Contracting States.

In accordance with Article 6 § 4 of the [Agreement](#) between OTIF and the European Union (EU) on the EU's accession to COTIF, the European Union must notify the Secretary General of the agenda items on which it will exercise its voting rights. The Secretary General will then pass this information on to the committee members and observers without delay.

Observers

In accordance with the decision taken by the RID Committee of Experts at its 42nd session, the invited observers are those listed in Annex E to this circular.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

In accordance with Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure, the RID Committee of Experts elects, at this meeting, a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among the OTIF members represented at the meeting.

Practical information

Hotels in Berne are listed [here](#).

Annex F contains information on how to reach the venue.

Registration

Delegates are kindly requested to register their attendance **by no later than 13 May 2026** using the [online registration form](#).

Aleksandr Kuzmenko
Secretary General

Annexes:

- A – Provisional agenda
- B – Annotated provisional agenda
- C – Application of Appendix C to COTIF
- D – Model proxy
- E – List of invited observers
- F – Practical information

Provisional agenda

Opening of the session

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
3. Approval of the amendments to RID
4. Modifications to the RID Committee of Experts' Rules of Procedure
5. Involvement of stakeholders
6. Revision of the RID Handbook
7. Promoting the application of RID in domestic transport
8. RID copyright protection
9. Any other business

Closure of the session

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Approval of the agenda

According to Article 9 § 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the RID Committee of Experts, the adoption of the agenda shall be the first item on the provisional agenda.

2. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

According to Article 10 § 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the RID Committee of Experts, the RID Committee of Experts elects the Chair and one or more Vice-Chairs after it has adopted its agenda.

3. Approval of the amendments to RID

Approval of the amendments to RID proposed at the sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth sessions of the standing working group of the RID Committee of Experts (London, 20-23 November 2023; Berne, 22 May 2024, Madrid, 20 and 21 November 2024, Luxembourg, 18-21 November 2025 and Berne, 27 and 28 May 2026) for entry into force on 1 January 2027

Taking into account the results of the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting (Berne, 24-27 March 2026), the Secretariat will prepare a draft version of the notification texts for the 2027 edition of RID on the basis of document [RID-25039-CE-SWG19](#) from the last session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group, which will include all the decisions of the 19th session of the standing working group and the final decisions of the Joint Meeting.

Following the 20th session of the standing working group (Berne, 27 and 28 May 2026), the Secretariat will also prepare a document setting out the decisions on the above-mentioned draft version of the notification texts.

4. Modifications to the RID Committee of Experts' Rules of Procedure (document RID-26013-CE-SWG20-6)

This document will be reviewed in advance by the 20th session of the standing working group.

5. Involvement of stakeholders (document RID-26014-CE-SWG20-7)

This document will be reviewed in advance by the 20th session of the standing working group.

6. Revision of the RID Handbook (document RID-26008-CE59-6)

The document concerning the revision of the RID Handbook has already been reviewed by the 19th session of the standing working group (Luxembourg, 18-21 November 2025). This document incorporates the decisions of the 19th session of the standing working group.

7. Promoting the application of RID in domestic transport (document RID-26009-CE59-7)

The document concerning the revision of the RID Handbook has already been reviewed by the 19th session of the standing working group (Luxembourg, 18-21 November 2025).

8. RID copyright protection (document RID-26018-CE-SWG20-8)

The 20th session of the standing working group will review this document in advance.

9. Any other business

Closure of the session

Application of Appendix C to COTIF

RID Contracting States:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| – Afghanistan (voting rights suspended pending the payment of contributions) | – France | – North Macedonia |
| – Albania | – Georgia | – Norway |
| – Algeria | – Germany | – Poland |
| – Armenia | – Greece | – Portugal |
| – Austria | – Hungary | – Romania |
| – Azerbaijan | – Iran | – Serbia |
| – Belgium | – Ireland | – Slovakia |
| – Bosnia and Herzegovina | – Italy | – Slovenia |
| – Bulgaria | – Latvia | – Spain |
| – Croatia | – Liechtenstein | – Sweden |
| – Czech Republic | – Lithuania | – Switzerland |
| – Denmark | – Luxembourg | – Tunisia |
| – Estonia | – Monaco | – Türkiye |
| – Finland | – Montenegro | – Ukraine |
| | – Morocco | – United Kingdom |
| | – Netherlands | |

The OTIF membership of Iraq, Lebanon and Syria is currently suspended.

Member States which have made a declaration regarding Appendix C to COTIF in accordance with the first sentence of Article 42 § 1 of COTIF:

- Republic of Moldova
- Pakistan
- Russia

Regional economic integration organisation:

- European Union

Associate Members¹:

- Jordan

¹ Associate Members are not Contracting Parties to COTIF.

Model proxy

[GOVERNMENT OF STATE PROVIDING PROXY, MINISTRY OF ...]

[Section of/Department of/...]

[Place], [date]

[Ref. N°:]

PROXY

59th Session of the RID Committee of Experts

Berne, 28 May 2026

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the RID Committee of Experts and following consultation with [State authorised to represent], [State providing proxy] hereby notifies that it will be represented by [State authorised to represent] at the 59th session of OTIF's RID Committee of Experts on 28 May 2026 in Berne [with a more detailed description of the mandate, if applicable].

Minister [of ...]

.....
[Signature]

[Name]

[Address and other contact data]

List of invited observers

The following intergovernmental organisations are invited to attend the meeting of the RID Committee of Experts in an advisory capacity (as observers):

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),
- Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD).

The following stakeholders are invited to attend the meeting of the Committee of Experts in an advisory capacity (as observers):

- Cefic – European Chemical Industry Council,
- CEN – European Committee for Standardization,
- CEPE – European Council of the Paint, Printing Ink, and Artist’s Colours Industry,
- CIT – International Rail Transport Committee,
- COSTHA – Council on Safe Transportation of Hazardous Articles,
- ECFD – European Confederation of Fuel Distributors,
- ECMA – European Cylinder Manufacturers Association,
- EIGA – European Industrial Gases Association,
- EuRIC – Recycling Europe,
- FEA – European Aerosol Federation,
- FEAD – European Waste Management Association,
- FIATA – International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations,
- IASA – International Association of Dangerous Goods Safety Advisors,
- ICCR – International Confederation of Container Reconditioners
- IDGCA – International Dangerous Goods and Container Association
- IRU – International Road Transport Union,
- ITCO – International Tank Container Organisation,
- LGE – Liquid Gas Europe,
- RECHARGE – European Association for Advanced Rechargeable Batteries,
- SAAMI – Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers’ Institute,
- UNIFE – Association of the European Rail Industry,
- UIC – International Union of Railways,
- UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers
- UIRR – International Union of Combined Road-Rail Transport Companies.

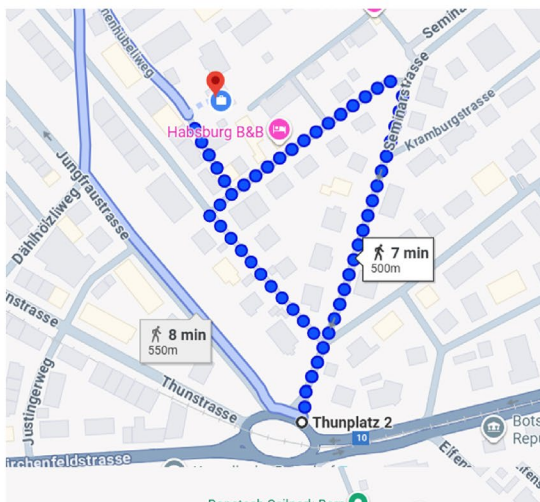
Directions to OTIF

Gryphenhübeliweg 30, CH-3006 Berne

Option 1: Tram + Walk

Take Tram 7 or 8 to Thunplatz.

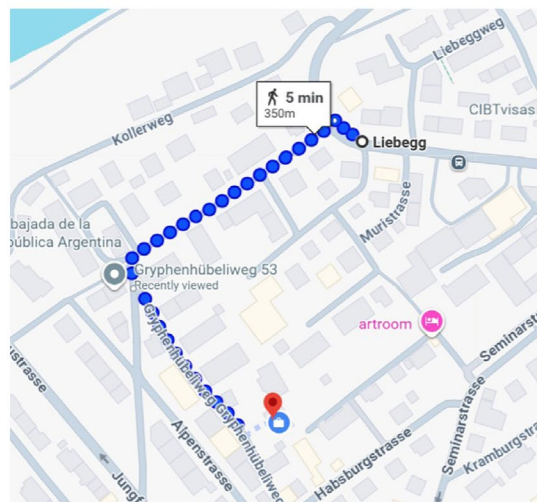
From there, it is a short walk to the OTIF building.



Option 2: Bus + Walk

Take Bus 12 to Liebegg.

From there, it is a short walk to the OTIF building.



Visitors are kindly advised to use public transport, as parking is limited in the vicinity of the building.



OTIF

Organisation intergouvernementale pour les transports internationaux ferroviaires
Zwischenstaatliche Organisation für den internationalen Eisenbahnverkehr
Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail