Secretary General

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

21st Session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group

Berlin (in person), 18–20 November 2026

Invitation, provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda

Zwischenstaatliche Organisation für den internationalen Eisenbahnverkehr
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In accordance with Article 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the RID Committee of Experts, the 21st session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group will be held from

18 to 20 November 2026.

Venue

The meeting will be held at the

Federal Ministry of Transport
Meeting Room K 1 – C.E.053
Invalidenstraße 44
10115 Berlin
Germany

Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure of the RID Committee of Experts apply mutatis mutandis to its working group. The applicable Rules of Procedure of the RID Committee of Experts (OTIF-26020-CE59) are available on the OTIF 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 § 3 of the Rules of Procedure, requests to place additional questions on the agenda must be submitted to the Secretary General by no later than **7 October 2026**.

Provisional timetable

The meeting will begin on Wednesday, 18 November 2026 at 09:30 local time in Berlin and will end on Friday, 20 November 2026 by 12:30.

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=264.

In accordance with Article 11 § 3 of the Rules of Procedure, proposals and suggestions must be submitted by no later than **7 October 2026**.

Composition

The standing working group 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 States will also be invited to the meeting.

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

Observers

In accordance with the decision taken by the RID Committee of Experts at its 59th session, the invited observers are those listed in Annex D.

Practical information

Annex E contains information on how to reach the venue.

Registration

Delegates are kindly requested to register their attendance **by no later than 3 November 2026** using the online registration form.

Aleksandr Kuzmenko
Secretary General

September 22, 2026

Qualified Electronic Signature by SwissSign

Annexes:

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

Annex A

Provisional agenda

Opening of the session

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Questions concerning the interpretation of RID
4. Proposals to amend RID
   a) Pending issues
   b) New proposals
5. Harmonisation of RID and SMGS Annex 2
6. Information from members of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group and observers
7. Information from the Secretariat
8. Any other business

Closure of the session

Annex B

Annotated provisional agenda

1. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

At the 6th session, Ms Caroline Bailleux (Belgium) was elected to chair this standing working group until further notice. At the 10th session, Mr Othmar Krammer (Austria) was elected Vice-Chair until further notice.

2. Approval of the agenda

3. Questions concerning the interpretation of RID

RID-26060-CE-SWG21-3 (UIC)	Request for clarification regarding the interpretation of RID 5.4.1.2.1 (a), second indent

4. Proposals to amend RID

a) Pending issues

RID-26061-CE-SWG21-4a (Belgium)	Inclusion of road vehicles in 7.5.8.1
RID-26062-CE-SWG21-4a (Netherlands)	Special provision for the protection of inspection openings of tank-wagons carrying toxic gases
RID-26063-CE-SWG21-4a (Secretariat)	Amendment of references in connection with the restructuring of 6.8.3.2

The following information and documents have been announced:

- Final report of the research project initiated by Germany on the simulation-based investigation of surge behaviour in tanks (see reports OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2024-B, paragraphs 8 and 9 and RID-26004-CE-SWG19, paragraph 12);
- Suggestion from Cefic to amend RID 4.3.2.2.4 for the carriage of tank-containers by rail (see report OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2021-A, paragraphs 37 to 39);
- Alternative proposal from Austria and Switzerland on using the term “road vehicle” in 1.1.4.4 (see report RID-26037-CE-SWG20, paragraphs 28 to 31);
- Proposal from ERA to include a reference to UTP WAG, Appendix I, Section B in paragraph 7.1.2.1.2 of the RID.

b) New proposals

RID-26064-CE-SWG21-4b (UIC)	Deletion of column 4 (NHM Code) from RID 3.2.2, Table B
RID-26065-CE-SWG21-4b (Secretariat)	Decisions of the 120th session of WP.15 (Geneva, 3 – 6 November 2026)

The following information and documents have been announced:

- Impact on rail transport of a decision by the ADN Safety Committee on fumigated loads (information provided by the Netherlands).

5. Harmonisation of RID and SMGS Annex 2

Issues that may arise from the harmonisation of RID and SMGS Annex 2 will be dealt with under this agenda item.

6. Information from members of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group and observers

RID-26066-CE-SWG21-6 (ERA)	Information from the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)

7. Information from the Secretariat

The Secretariat will inform the standing working group about relevant developments and provide an outlook for 2027.

8. Any other business

Annex C

Application of Appendix C to COTIF

RID Contracting States:

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

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 Members[1]:

- Jordan

[1] Associate Members are not Contracting Parties to COTIF.

Annex D

List of invited observers

The following intergovernmental organisations are invited to attend the meetings of the RID Committee of Experts and its standing working group in an advisory capacity (as observers):

– United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE),

– Organisation for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD).

The following stakeholders are invited to attend the meetings of the RID Committee of Experts and its standing working group 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 Makers Association,

– ECTA – European Chemical Transport 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 Advisers,

– ICCR – International Confederation of Container Reconditioners,

– ICPP – International Confederation of Plastics Packaging Manufacturers,

– IDGCA – International Dangerous Goods and Container Association,

– IRU – International Road Transport Union,

– ITCO – International Tank Container Organisation,

– Liquid Gas Europe,

– RECHARGE – European Association for Advanced Rechargeable Batteries,

– SAAMI – Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute,

– UIC – International Union of Railways,

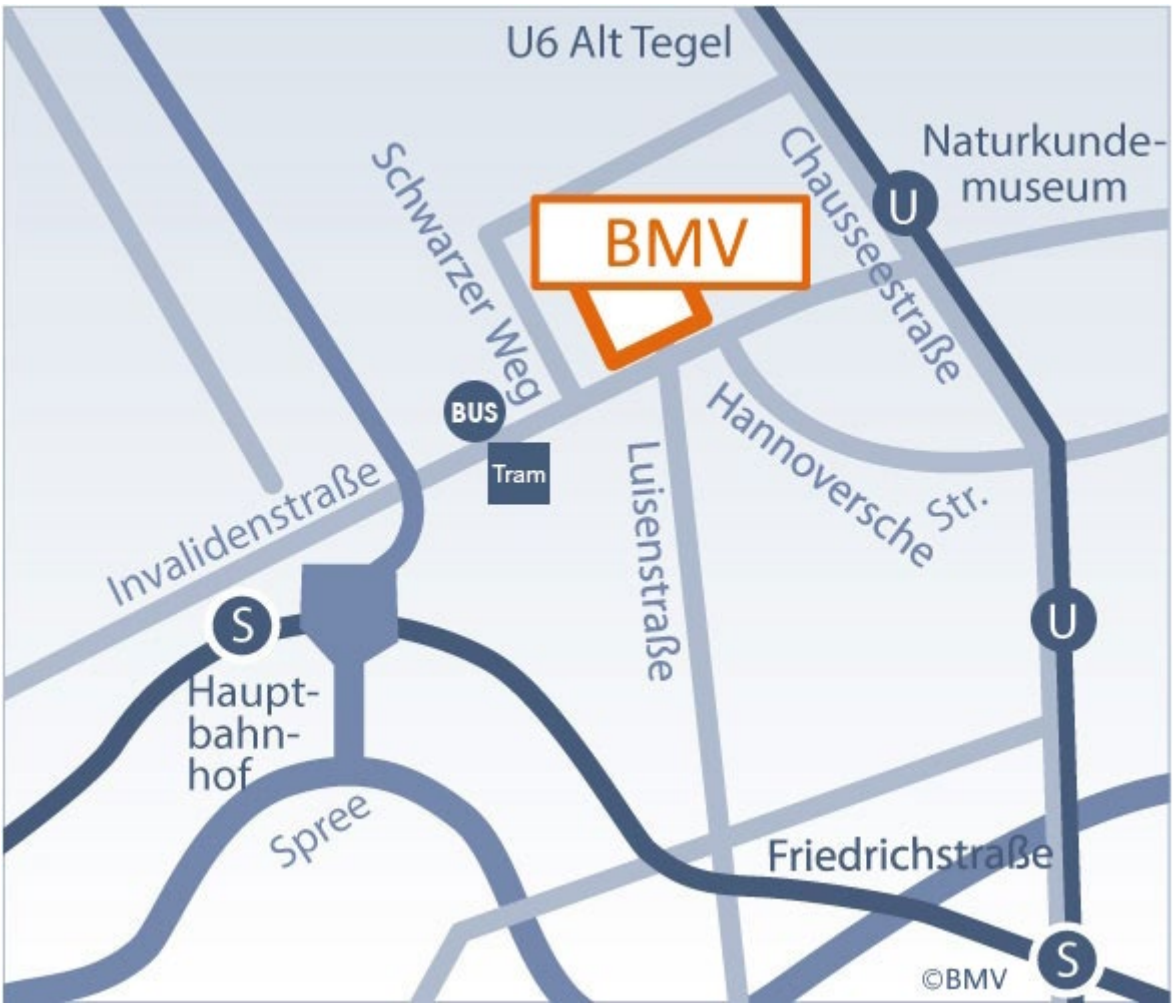
– UIP – International Union of Wagon Keepers,

– UIRR – International Union of Combined Road-Rail Transport Companies,

– UNIFE – Association of the European Rail Industry.

Annex E

How to get there



Source: Federal Ministry of Transport (BMV)

The BMV's headquarters are situated on Invalidenstraße, in the heart of Berlin Mitte, near the main railway station.

By public transport:

Bus:	120, 142, 147, 245 (Invalidenpark)
Underground:	U5 (Hauptbahnhof/main railway station), U6 (Naturkundemuseum/Natural History Museum)
S-Bahn (local suburban railway):	S3, S5, S7, S9, S75 (Berlin main railway station)
Tram:	M5, M6, M8, M10 (Invalidenpark or Naturkundemuseum)
Long-distance rail:	via main station or Ostbahnhof/East station

Transport connections from Berlin Brandenburg Airport "Willy Brandt" (BER):

FEX, S9, regional trains or regional express (Berlin main station).