



Committee of Technical Experts

TECH-26001
Distrib.: Public

19.01.2026
Original: EN

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

18th Session of the Committee of Technical Experts

Bern (hybrid meeting), 9 June 2026

Invitation and provisional agenda



Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail
Gryphenhübeliweg 30 CH-3006 Berne | info@otif.org | www.otif.org

In accordance with Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts (CTE), you are invited to the

18th session of the Committee of Technical Experts
on 9 June 2026

Venue

The session will take place at OTIF's headquarters:

Gryphenhübeliweg 30
Bern
Switzerland

Time

The session will take place on one day. It will begin at 10:00 and will end no later than 18:00 local time (CEST).

Rules of Procedure

The currently applicable Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts are those of 13 June 2023, which are available on OTIF's website ([link](#)).

Languages

The working languages will be French, German and English with simultaneous interpretation.

Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda is in Annex A to this invitation.

Working documents

Documents relating to the session will be made available in accordance with Article 9 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure on OTIF's website under:

[Activities](#) > [Technical Interoperability](#) > [Committee of Technical Experts](#) > [Working Documents](#)

Working documents prepared by the Secretariat which contain proposals for binding provisions in the meaning of Article 20 § 1 of COTIF will be made available not less than 16 weeks prior to the session, i.e. by **16 February 2026**.

Other working documents prepared by the Secretariat will be made available not less than 8 weeks prior to the session, i.e. by **13 April 2026**.

Working documents prepared by a member of the Committee or by an observer should be submitted in accordance with the deadlines laid down in Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure.

Composition, voting rights and quorum

The Committee of Technical Experts is composed of all Member States which have not made a declaration concerning the APTU UR and the ATMF UR (Appendices F and G to the Convention) in accordance with the first sentence of Article 42 § 1 of COTIF. These Member States are referred to as the Contracting States. The Member States that are not Contracting States are invited to the session and will be able to participate in the discussions on these agenda items but cannot vote.

A list of Member States and their application of the APTU UR and ATMF UR is attached as Annex D to this invitation.

There is a quorum in the Committee of Technical Experts when one-half of the Contracting States are represented. According to Article 16 § 3 of COTIF, Contracting States may delegate powers (including the right to vote) to another Contracting State. However, no Contracting State may represent more than two other Contracting States. A model proxy is attached as Annex E to this invitation.

Regional economic integration organisation – European Union

In accordance with Article 38 § 2 and 3 of COTIF, a regional organisation may exercise the rights enjoyed by its members by virtue of the Convention to the extent that they cover matters for which it is competent. For the purpose of exercising the right to vote at the Committee of Technical Experts, the regional organisation shall enjoy the number of votes equal to those of its members which are also Contracting States.

In accordance with Article 6(4) of the agreement between OTIF and the European Union (EU) on the accession of the EU to COTIF¹, the European Union should inform the Secretary General of those agenda items in respect of which it will exercise voting rights. The Secretary General will share this information together with the working documents.

Observers

In accordance with the decision taken by the CTE at its 15th session (Bern, 13-14 June 2023), the invited observers are those listed in Annex B to this invitation.

Election of the Chair

In accordance with Article 10 of the Rules of Procedure, the meeting will elect a Chair from among the OTIF members represented at the session. As there is currently no Chair that has been elected for a fixed period in accordance with Article 10 § 1, letter b), a Chair must be elected at the session.

Should any Member State wish to nominate a candidate to chair the session, they are kindly invited to submit their nomination to the Secretariat by no later than **13 April 2026**.

Registration

In order to organise the session effectively, the Member States, regional economic integration organisations which have acceded to COTIF and invited observers should register before the deadline of **12 May 2026**, using the digital registration form on OTIF's website under:

[Events > Registration form](#)

For logistical reasons, it is important that delegates indicate whether they will attend the session in person or remotely.

Entering Switzerland

Please consult the website of the Swiss Government with regard to the [conditions for entering Switzerland](#).

Delegates who require help to obtain a visa are requested to contact the Secretariat at least **six weeks** before the session, i.e. by **27 April 2026** at the latest.

¹ http://otif.org/fileadmin/user_upload/otif_verlinkte_files/04_recht/02_COTIF/AG_10-5_ad1_e.pdf

Before applying for a Swiss entry visa, delegates should be designated by their government to attend the OTIF meeting and inform the OTIF Secretariat accordingly. They must ensure they have all necessary supporting documents before visiting the nearest Swiss Embassy or Consulate to obtain the visa.

Reaching the meeting venue and other logistics

The venue can be reached by public transport (train, tram or bus services). Practical information is provided in Annex C to this invitation.

Remote participation

Participants will be able to attend the session in person or remotely. Remote participants will be provided with details on how to participate in the session approximately one week before the session.

Aleksandr Kuzmenko
Secretary General

Annexes:

- A – Provisional agenda
- B – List of invited observers
- C – Reaching the meeting venue
- D – Application of Appendices F and G to COTIF (APTU and ATMF)
- E – Model proxy

Annex A

Provisional agenda

Opening of the session

Election of chair

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Presence and quorum
3. Items for information:
 - 3.1. General information from the OTIF Secretariat
 - 3.2. Report from the CTE's working group Tech
4. Modification of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts
5. Items concerning the adoption of binding provisions:
 - 5.1. Modification of the UTP WAG
 - 5.2. Modification of the UTP LOC&PAS
 - 5.3. Modification of the Uniform format of certificates
 - 5.4. Modification of Appendix I to the UTP TAF
6. Items concerning approval of non-binding guidance and recommendations:
 - 6.1. Modification of the guide for the application of the UTP LOC&PAS
 - 6.2. Modification of the guide for the application of the UTP PRM
 - 6.3. Modification of the Handbook for the implementation and application of the APTU and ATMF Uniform Rules
 - 6.4. Explanatory document concerning ECM certification
7. Further items for consideration:
 - 7.1. Digitalisation and the role of OTIF
 - 7.2. Developments related to telematics and the UTP TAF
 - 7.3. Monitoring and assessing the implementation and application of the ATMF UR
 - 7.4. Covering additional technical systems in UTPs (multi-system wagons)
 - 7.5. Applying OTIF technical rules domestically
8. Work programme of the Committee
9. Stakeholder engagement
10. Any other business
11. Next session

Annex B**List of invited observers**

The following intergovernmental organisations are invited to participate in the Committee's session in an advisory capacity (observers):

- Organisation for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD)
- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- Transport Community Permanent Secretariat (TCPS)

The following stakeholders are invited to participate in the Committee's session in an advisory capacity (observers):

- Association of notified bodies (NB-Rail Association)
- Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER)
- European Committee for Standardization (CEN)
- European Rail Freight Association (ERFA)
- International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
- International Rail Transport Committee (CIT)
- International Union of combined Road-Rail transport companies (UIRR)
- International Union of Railways (UIC)
- International Union of Wagon Keepers (UIP)
- Union of European Railway Industries (UNIFE)

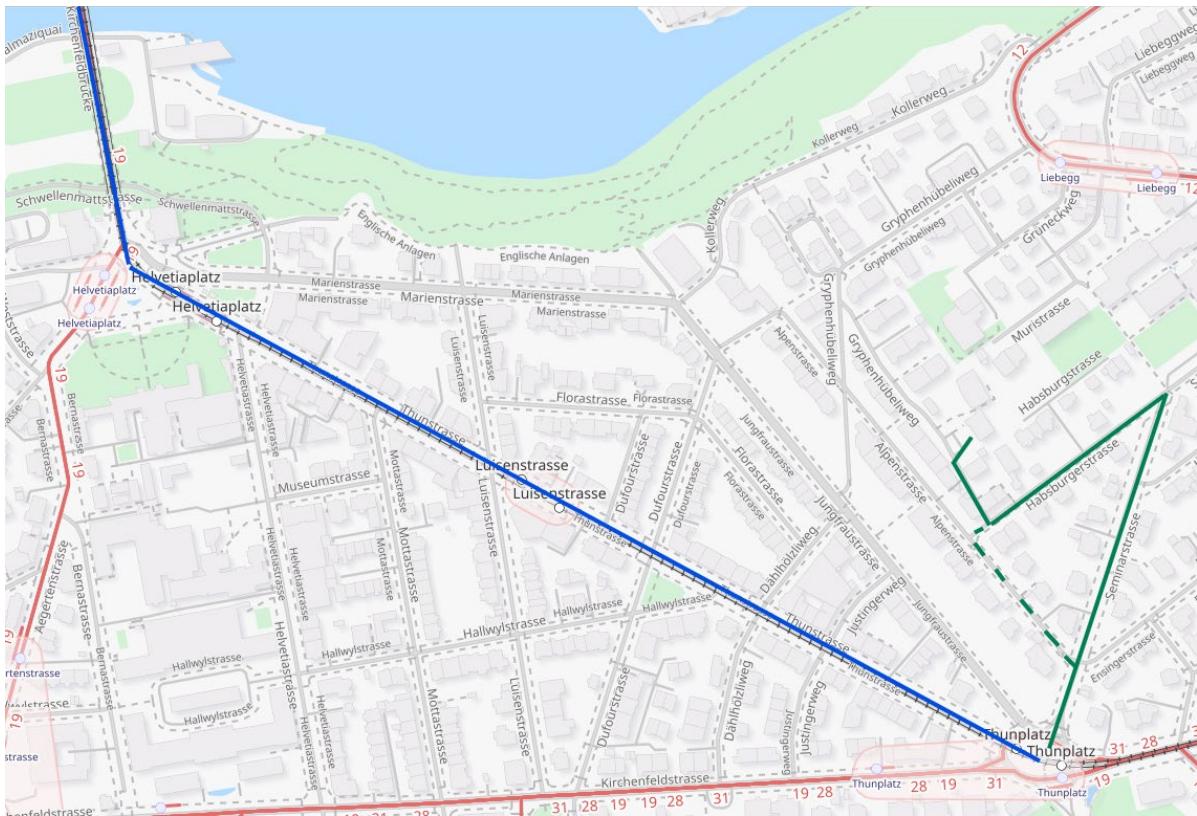
Annex C

Reaching the meeting venue

There are frequent and convenient train connections to Bern directly from the international airports of Geneva and Zurich. Tickets can be purchased online (<https://www.sbb.ch/en/>) at any time before departure, or at the train station.

In Bern, the OTIF building can be reached by taking tram line 7 (direction Ostring), or tram line 8 (direction Saali) from Bern railway station or from tram stops in the city centre. The tram route is indicated by a blue line on the map below. The OTIF building is located within walking distance of Thunplatz tram stop.

The green line on the map shows the walking route from Thunplatz to the OTIF building (approximately 8 minutes). A shortcut is usually available via Alpenstrasse, shown as a green dotted line. This street is closed to motorised traffic but is generally accessible to pedestrians.



Annex D

APPLICATION OF APPENDICES F and G TO COTIF (APTU UR and ATMF UR)²

“x” means that the member concerned applies the Appendix at the date of this circular

Member States listed in alphabetical order of their 2-letter ISO code:

Code	Member	APTU	ATMF	Code	Member	APTU	ATMF
AF	Afghanistan	x	x	LI	Liechtenstein	x	x
AL	Albania	x	x	LT	Lithuania	x	x
AM	Armenia	x	x	LU	Luxembourg	x	x
AT	Austria	x	x	LV	Latvia	x	x
AZ	Azerbaijan			MA	Morocco	x	x
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	x	x	MC	Monaco	x	x
BE	Belgium	x	x	MD	Moldova		
BG	Bulgaria	x	x	ME	Montenegro	x	x
CH	Switzerland	x	x	MK	North Macedonia	x	x
CZ	Czech Republic	x	x	NL	Netherlands	x	x
DE	Germany	x	x	NO	Norway	x	x
DK	Denmark	x	x	PL	Poland	x	x
DZ	Algeria	x	x	PT	Portugal	x	x
EE	Estonia	x	x	PK	Pakistan		
ES	Spain	x	x	RO	Romania	x	x
FI	Finland	x	x	RS	Serbia	x	x
FR	France	x	x	RU	Russia		
GE	Georgia			SE	Sweden	x	x
GR	Greece	x	x	SI	Slovenia	x	x
HR	Croatia	x	x	SK	Slovakia	x	x
HU	Hungary	x	x	SY	Syria (membership suspended)		
IE	Ireland	x	x	TN	Tunisia	x	x
IR	Iran	x	x	TR	Türkiye	x	x
IT	Italy	x	x	UA	Ukraine	x	x
IQ	Iraq (membership suspended)			UK	United Kingdom	x	x
LB	Lebanon (membership suspended)						

Regional economic integration organisation:

Code	Member	APTU	ATMF
EU	European Union	x	x

Associate member³:

Code	Associate member
JO	Jordan

² For a full and up-to-date overview of membership and membership status see http://otif.org/en/?page_id=172 and table https://otif.org/fileadmin/images/pictures/Table1P_EN.pdf

³ An Associate Member is not a contracting party to COTIF.

Annex E**Model proxy**

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

[Section of / Department of/ ...]

[Place], [date]

[Ref. N°:]

Proxy

18th Session of the Committee of Technical Experts of OTIF

Bern, 9 June 2026

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts and following consultation with [State authorised to represent], [State providing proxy] hereby notifies that it will be represented [*if need be, specification of the mandate*] at the 18th session of the Committee of Technical Experts of OTIF to be held on 9 June 2026 in Bern by [State authorised to represent].

The Minister [of/for ...]

.....
[Signature]

[Name]

[Address and other contact data]