



Working Group TECH

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

59th Session of the working group Technology (WG Tech)

Berne (hybrid session), 9 September 2026

Invitation, provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda



In accordance with Articles 7 § 1 and 22 § 4 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts, the 59th session of the working group Technology (WG Tech) will be held on

9 September 2026

Venue

The session will take place at

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

Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts apply *mutatis mutandis* to the WG Tech. The applicable [Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts](#) (OTIF-26021-CTE18) are available on OTIF's website.

Provisional agenda and annotated provisional agenda

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

Provisional timetable

The session will begin at 09:00 local time in Berne and will end at 17:00 at the latest. The provisional timetable is attached to this circular as Annex C.

Languages

The session will be held in English only, in accordance with Article 23 § 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Technical Experts and the decision it took at its 3rd session (Berne, 11-12 February 2009). No interpretation will be provided.

Working documents

In accordance with Article 9 §§ 1 and 3 of the Rules of Procedure, working documents relating to the session will be made available by **11 August 2026** at the latest on OTIF's website under:

[Home » Activities » Technical Interoperability » Working Group Tech » Working Documents](#) (select 2026).

Observers

In accordance with the decision taken by the Committee of Technical Experts at its 15th session, the invited observers are those listed in Annex E to this circular.

Chair

In accordance with Article 22 § 5 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chair will be the Chair of the most recent session of the Committee of Technical Experts. Consequently, the United Kingdom will Chair the 59th session of WG Tech.

Practical information

Practical information regarding the session, including assistance for visa requests, a venue map, directions and remote participation can be found in Annex F.

Registration

Delegates are kindly requested to register their attendance **by no later than 26 August 2026** using the [online registration form](#).

Aleksandr Kuzmenko
Secretary General

Annexes:

- A – Provisional agenda
- B – Annotated provisional agenda
- C – Provisional timetable
- D – Application of Appendices F and G to COTIF
- E – List of observers
- F – Practical information

Annex A**Provisional agenda**

Opening of the session

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous session
3. Information from the OTIF Secretariat
4. For review:
 - 4.1. Draft proposal for a new UTP Telematics
 - 4.2. Draft proposal for modification of the Uniform format of certificates
5. For discussion:
 - 5.1. Two-tier approach to technical interoperability
 - 5.2. Covering additional technical systems in UTPs (GCC wagons)
 - 5.3. Applying OTIF technical rules domestically
 - 5.4. Use of electronic signatures on certificates issued under the APTU or ATMF UR
 - 5.5. Monitoring and assessing the implementation and application of the ATMF UR
6. Developments in the regulations of OTIF Members that are of relevance to COTIF'
7. Cross reference table of EU and OTIF terminology
8. EU – OTIF equivalence table
9. Any other business
10. Next sessions

Annex B

Annotated provisional agenda

Opening of the session

The Secretariat will open the 59th session of the working group Technology (WG Tech).

1. Approval of the agenda

The agenda prepared by the Secretariat, and amended if necessary in light of requests received from the participants at the meeting, will be approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous session

WG Tech will review the comments on the draft minutes that were submitted to the Secretariat before the session.

3. Information from the OTIF Secretariat

The Secretariat will present the latest developments related to OTIF that may be of relevance to participants.

4. For review:

4.1. Draft proposal for a new UTP Telematics

The Secretariat will present a revised draft proposal for a new UTP Telematics, taking into account the conclusions from the previous session and any comments provided after the session. In particular, the revisions concern the scope of application, the concept of system authority and references to ERA technical documents.

4.2. Draft proposal for modification of the uniform format of certificates

The Secretariat will present a revised draft proposal to modify the uniform format of certificates, taking into account the conclusions from the previous session and any comments provided after the session. In particular, the revisions aim to clarify terminology and ensure alignment with EU law, where appropriate.

5. For discussion:

5.1. Two-tier approach to technical interoperability

The Secretariat will present a discussion paper on the two-tier approach to technical interoperability, taking into account the conclusions from the previous session and any comments provided after the session. In particular, the paper will focus on developing guidance rather than changing existing OTIF rules.

5.2. Covering additional technical systems in UTPs (GCC wagons)

The Secretariat will present a discussion paper on covering additional technical systems in UTPs, taking into account the conclusions from the previous session and any comments provided after the session.

5.3. Applying OTIF technical rules domestically

The Secretariat will present a discussion paper on applying OTIF technical rules domestically, taking into account the conclusions from the previous session and any comments provided after the session. In particular, this would focus on the possible development of non-binding guidance on the voluntary domestic application of UTPs to vehicle design.

5.4. Use of electronic signatures on certificates issued under the APTU or ATMF UR

The Secretariat will present a discussion paper taking into account the conclusions from the previous session and any comments provided after the session. In particular, this would concern proposals for functional, technology-neutral guidance on electronic signatures and/or seals.

5.5. Monitoring and assessing the implementation and application of the ATMF UR

The Secretariat will present the latest developments in the work on monitoring and assessing the implementation and application of the ATMF UR.

6. Developments in the regulations of OTIF Members that are of relevance to COTIF

Under this agenda item, and in line with established practice, the EC and/or ERA will inform the WG Tech of the latest EU developments relevant to COTIF. In addition, other OTIF Member States are invited to inform the WG Tech of relevant national developments concerning COTIF and international technical interoperability and safety.

7. Cross reference table of EU and OTIF terminology

The WG Tech will review the EU and OTIF terminology table, which provides an informative comparison between OTIF and EU terminology and explains how the terms are understood in each system.

8. EU – OTIF equivalence table

The WG Tech will review the updated version of the EU-OTIF equivalence table, highlighting where the requirements are equivalent, partially equivalent or different.

9. Any other business

An opportunity for participants and the Secretariat to raise any additional issues.

10. Next sessions

The WG Tech will discuss and, where relevant, decide on its planning for 2026 and 2027.

Annex C**Provisional timetable****9 September 2026**

09:00 – 10:30	Discussions
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30	Discussions
12:30 – 13:30	Lunchbreak
13:30 – 15:00	Discussions
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 17:00	Discussions

All times are Berne local time (CEST)

Annex D

Application of Appendices F and G to COTIF (APTU UR and ATMF UR)¹

“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 ²	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		

¹ 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

² Voting rights suspended pending the payment of contributions.

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

Annex E

List of invited observers

The following intergovernmental organisations are invited to participate in the working group session in an advisory capacity (observer):

- 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 working group 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 F

Practical information

Entering Switzerland

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

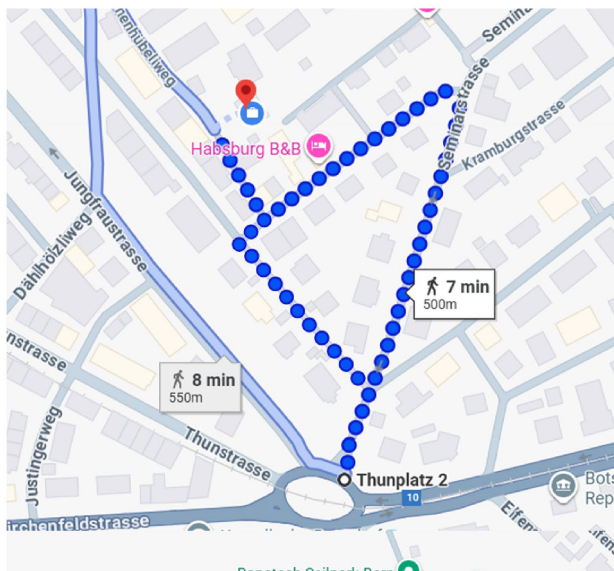
Delegates who require help to obtain a visa are requested to contact the Secretariat at least **six weeks** before the session, i.e. by **29 July 2026** at the latest.

A venue map and directions

Option 1: Tram + Walk

Take Tram 7 or 8 to Thunplatz.

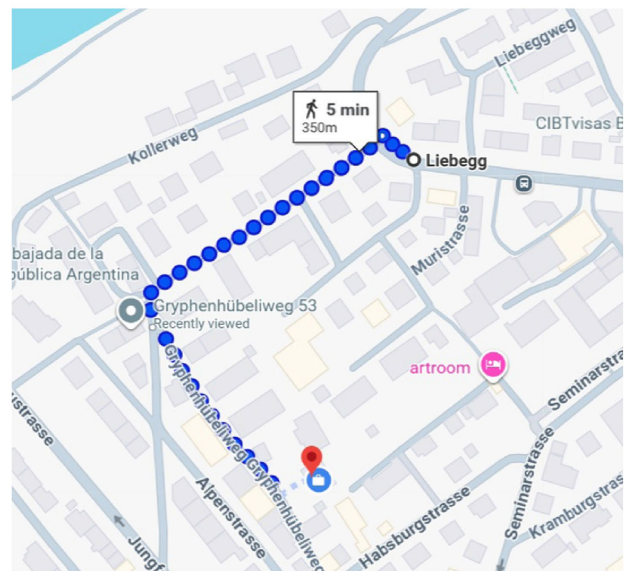
From there, it is a short walk to the OTIF building.



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.

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.