



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

Groupe de travail TECH
Arbeitsgruppe TECH
Working Group TECH

TECH-20017-WGT40

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

Invitation to the 40th session of the standing working group TECH
Bern, 17-18 June 2020

Including important information concerning the coronavirus pandemic

The OTIF Secretariat invites you to the 40th session of the standing working group TECH (WG TECH) on

17 and 18 June 2020 in Bern

17 June: 14:30 - 17:30

18 June: 09:00 – 16:00

Venue: the OTIF building, Gryphenhübeliweg 30, Bern

The provisional agenda can be found in the annex to this document.

The documents for the session will be placed on the OTIF website (www.otif.org) approximately four weeks before the meeting under:

Activities > Technical Interoperability > Working Group Tech > [Working Documents](#)

The agenda items for this working group concern the preparation of documents for decision at the Committee of Technical Experts (CTE). Therefore, it is important that as many of the Member States as possible participate.

In accordance with Article 24 of the Rules of Procedure of the CTE of 11 February 2009 and the decision taken by the CTE at its 3rd session in February 2009, sessions of the WGTECH will be held in English only.

Please note that this session of the WG TECH is scheduled to take place directly following the 13th session of the CTE (16-17 June 2020, Bern); see circular letters with reference TECH-20001 of 27 January 2020 and TECH-20024 of 3 April 2020.

Important information concerning the coronavirus pandemic

In view of the coronavirus pandemic, many OTIF Member States are facing an exceptional situation. This includes the host state of OTIF, Switzerland. As a consequence, it is currently unclear whether the above-mentioned session can take place as previously announced.

No later than three weeks prior to the planned opening of the meeting, the Secretary General will decide whether the session will take place or whether it will be postponed. In his decision, the Secretary General will take account of the situation in the Member States, particularly Switzerland, including any travel restrictions to and from Switzerland, the number of registrations and the situation in terms of meeting logistics, such as the availability of a meeting room and interpretation.

Should it be necessary to postpone the session, you will be informed by no later than **26 May 2020**.

Member States, associate Members, regional organisations that have acceded to COTIF and observers invited to the session are asked to register, using the digital registration form on OTIF's website (www.otif.org) under:

Events > [Registration form](#)

The completed form should be submitted by **16 May 2020** at the latest.

Delegates are encouraged to register for the session as usual, whilst taking into account the information in this letter, i.e. they should ensure that travel and hotel arrangements can be cancelled if necessary.

Yours faithfully



(Wolfgang Küpper)
Secretary General

Annex:

- Provisional agenda

cc:

- Representatives who participated in previous WG TECH sessions or at the sessions of the Committee of Technical Experts
- The following institutions, organisations and associations that were invited to the Committee of Technical Experts are also invited to participate as observers in the working group session:
 - The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
 - European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)
 - International Union of Railways (UIC)
 - International Rail Transport Committee (CIT)
 - International Union of Wagon Keepers (UIP)
 - Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD)
 - Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER)
 - European Rail Freight Association (ERFA)
 - European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM)
 - Union of European Railway Industries (UNIFE)
 - International Association of Public Transport (UITP)
 - International Union of combined Road-Rail transport companies (UIRR)
 - European Committee for Standardization (CEN)
 - International Association of Private-Sidings Users (IVA)
 - European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF)
 - Association of notified bodies (NB-Rail Association)

Annex: Provisional agenda

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Information from the OTIF Secretariat
3. Election of chair
4. Approval of the minutes of the 39th session of WG TECH
5. Review of draft proposals for modifications:
 - a. Draft UTP concerning infrastructure
 - b. Draft UTP concerning train composition and route compatibility checks
 - c. Draft revised UTP LOC&PAS
 - d. Draft revised UTP PRM
6. Discussion:
 - a. TAF – amending the process of regularly updating Annex 1 to UTP TAF
 - b. Alignment of UTP WAG with EU Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/387
7. Developments in EU regulations that are of relevance to COTIF (presented by ERA and DG MOVE)
8. Cross reference table of EU and OTIF terminology
9. EU-OTIF equivalence table
10. Any other business
11. Next sessions