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

Invitation to the 53rd session of the working group Technology (WG Tech)

Bern/Ittigen (hybrid meeting), 17 September 2024
The OTIF Secretariat is convening the 53rd session of the working group Technology (WG Tech) on

17 September 2024, 9:30 – 17:00
(all times in CEST)
The session will be held as a hybrid meeting.

The meeting will be hosted by the Swiss Federal Office of Transport:

Bundesamt für Verkehr (BAV)
Mühlestrasse 6
CH-3063 Ittigen (near Bern)
Switzerland

Participants will be able to attend the meeting in person, or attend remotely using MS Teams.

Agenda
The provisional agenda is in Annex 1 to this invitation letter.

Working documents
The documents for the session will be published on OTIF’s website (www.otif.org) four weeks before the meeting, i.e. 19 August 2024, under:

Activities > Technical Interoperability > Working Group Tech > Working Documents > 2024

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 2 to this invitation.

Rules of Procedure
The Rules of Procedure of the CTE of 13 June 2023 also apply to the WG Tech. These Rules of Procedure are available on OTIF’s website (link).

Language
Sessions of the WG Tech are held in English only. There will be no interpretation. This is in accordance with Article 23 § 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the CTE of 13 June 2023 and the decision taken by the CTE at its 3rd session (Bern, 11-12 February 2009).

Registration
Delegates are asked to register using the digital registration form on OTIF’s website under:

Events > Registration form

The completed form should be submitted by 2 September 2024 at the latest. For logistical reasons, it is important that delegates indicate whether they will attend the meeting 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 before 5 August 2024.

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.

Travel to Bern
Delegates are advised to travel to Bern by train. There are frequent and convenient connections directly from the international airports of Geneva and Zurich. Tickets can be purchased online (https://www.sbb.ch/en/) or via the SBB App on mobile devices at any time before departure, or at the train station.

Reaching the meeting venue
The meeting venue is most easily reached by public transport, using urban train S7 from Bern railway station. The stop is Papiermühle, which is the second stop after Bern. The connection is covered by the public transport ticket (zones 100, 101) that is usually issued to guests who stay in a hotel in Bern.
See Annex 3 for further details.

Remote participation
Registered delegates will be provided with details on how to participate in the meeting remotely approximately one week before the meeting.

Yours faithfully

(Wolfgang Küpper)
Secretary General

Annexes:

- 1: Provisional agenda
- 2: List of invited observers
- 3: Reaching the venue
Annex 1

Provisional agenda

Opening of the session
Election of chair
1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the previous session
3. Information from the OTIF Secretariat
4. For discussion:
   4.1. Draft proposal for revision of the UTP LOC&PAS
   4.2. Draft proposal for revision of the UTP PRM
   4.3. Draft proposals for revision of the UTP Marking and for an explanatory document
   4.4. Draft proposal for revision of the UTP INF
   4.5. Draft update to guide for the application of the UTP WAG
   4.6. Draft update to guide for the application of the UTP Noise
   4.7. Draft update to the handbook for the implementation and application of the APTU and ATMF Uniform Rules
   4.8. Draft proposal for Annex D to the EST UR concerning Supervision
   4.9. Discussion paper concerning the integration of additional railway systems in the UTPs with a view to the potential accession of GCC Member States to COTIF
5. Developments in European Union regulations that are of relevance to COTIF (presented by the European Commission and the European Union Agency for Railways)
6. Cross reference table of EU and OTIF terminology
7. EU – OTIF equivalence table
8. Any other business
9. Next sessions
Annex 2

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 3

Reaching the venue


Train S7 departs 8 times per hour from Bern main station platform 23 or 24 (you can take any S7 train in the direction of Worb Dorf or Bolligen). It takes 7 minutes to reach Papiermühle station.

The meeting venue is within 5-minutes walking distance of Papiermühle station. Upon disembarking the train at Papiermühle station, walk in the opposite direction of the train's travel without crossing the tracks (refer to the red arrow in the picture below). The building of the Federal Office of Transport (Bundesamt für Verkehr - BAV) is the first building on the right, at the end of the street.

Guidance to the meeting room will be provided at the reception desk.