EU MedRail/OTIF: a promising synergy

The European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) and the Secretariat of OTIF have decided to synergise the workshops organised under the EU MedRail project, set up by the European Commission, with OTIF’s activities, so that participants can take part in both events.

Consequently, the Secretariat of OTIF will take part in the “International Railway Legislation” workshop organised by EU MedRail in Belgrade, Serbia, on 6 and 7 February 2018. The workshop will be directly followed on 6 and 7 February by the working group TECH organised by OTIF.

In 2016, OTIF and the European Commission had already worked together on the joint organisation of two workshops entitled “OTIF-COTIF - Presentation of unified railway law”, which took place in Egypt and Israel in the framework of the EuroMed-Transport project, which became the EU MedRail project in 2017.

OTIF acts as a forum that offers a framework for establishing unified railway law to connect Europe, Asia and Africa. In order to achieve this, the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) and its technical appendices, ATMF and APTU, are harmonised with the European Union’s regulations. One example of this concerns the admission of rolling stock for international traffic.

The EU MedRail project is aimed at southern Mediterranean states, some of which are also members of OTIF. Its aim is to develop a technologically integrated, reliable and efficient rail transport system with the countries of the Mediterranean.

It is therefore consistent that the Secretary General and OTIF’s heads of department will present COTIF, its appendices (CIM, CIV, RID, ATMF and APTU) and their complementarity with EU rules at the EU MedRail workshop.

Following the same logic, the workshop participants will attend the 34th session of OTIF’s working group TECH.

The Secretary General of OTIF welcomes this synergy and would like to thank the Republic of Serbia, the host country, the serbian Directorate for Railways hosting these events.

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