TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF OTIF AND TO REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE ACCEDED TO COTIF

55th Session of the RID Committee of Experts

(Berne, 30 May 2018)
TIME OF THE MEETING

1. The Secretariat of OTIF is pleased to be able to invite you to the 55th session of the RID Committee of Experts on 30 May 2018. The meeting will begin at 11.15 and will end at no later than 15.00.

2. This session of the RID Committee of Experts will be held directly after the 9th session of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group (Berne, 28 to 30 May 2018). Depending on when the meeting of the standing working group actually ends and the amount of work the Secretariat will have in preparing the working group's decisions for the RID Committee of Experts, it might also be decided at the standing working group to start the meeting earlier.

VENUE

3. The venue for the meeting is:

   Universal Postal Union (UPU)
   Weltpoststrasse 4
   CH – 3015 Bern

   The meeting will be held in the “Montgomery Blair” room on the ground floor.

HOTELS

4. Hotels in Berne are listed on the following website.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

5. This session of the RID Committee of Experts will be held under the conditions of the Rules of Procedure of the RID Committee of Experts adopted at the 42nd session (document A 81-03/501.2006/Add.3).

6. In connection with Article 5 § 2 of these Rules of Procedure, the RID Committee of Experts decided to invite the same organisations and associations to the meetings of the RID Committee of Experts as are invited to the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting.

7. In accordance with Article 11 § 3 of the Rules of Procedure, official proposals must be submitted by no later than 13 April 2018. Owing to the shorter duration of the RID Committee of Experts, these proposals will be examined beforehand by the 9th session of the standing working group (Berne, 28 to 30 May 2018).

LANGUAGES

8. The meeting languages will be English, German and French. There will be consecutive interpretation into German and French and simultaneous interpretation into English. As the members of the RID Committee of Experts who only use Russian have already announced that they will not be attending, there will be no Russian interpretation at this meeting.
9. Based on the information and proposals available so far the Secretariat of OTIF proposes the following provisional agenda:

ITEM 1: Approval of the agenda

ITEM 2: Presence and quorum

ITEM 3: Election of the Chairmen

ITEM 4: Approval of the amendments to RID suggested by the seventh, eighth and ninth sessions of the RID Committee of Experts' standing working group (Prague, 22 to 24 November 2016, Utrecht, 20 to 24 November 2017 and Berne, 28 to 30 May 2018) for a date of entry into force of 1 January 2019.

ITEM 5: Confirmation of the standing working group’s decision to set up a Joint Coordinating Group of Experts to implement the procedures described in the report of the RID/ATMF Working Group (see OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2017-A, paragraphs 60 and 61).


10. After the RID/ADR/ADN Joint Meeting (Berne, 12 to 16 March 2018), the Secretariat will prepare, on the basis of document OTIF/RID/CE/GTP/2017/15 from the last meeting of the standing working group, a draft version of the notification texts for the 2019 edition of RID. This draft will contain all the decisions of the 8th session of the working group and the final decisions of the Joint Meeting.

Following the 9th session of the standing working group (Berne, 28 to 30 May 2018), the Secretariat will also prepare a document setting out the decisions on the above-mentioned draft version of the notification texts.

11. With regard to agenda item 6, the Secretariat is proposing various adaptations to the Rules of Procedure in order to reflect the new working method of the RID Committee of Experts and its standing working group, which has been in use since 2012, and in order to avoid decisions being delayed as a result of this new working method (document OTIF/RID/CE/2018/1).

12. The working documents and informal documents for this session of the RID Committee of Experts can be downloaded from OTIF’s website.
REGISTRATION

13. Please register your attendance by no later than 18 May 2018 using the online form. Please remember that for a quorum in the RID Committee of Experts in accordance with Article 20 § 1 of the Rules of Procedure, ⅓ of the RID Contracting States must be present and that Article 4 § 1 of the Rules of Procedure also allows States to be represented by another RID Contracting State.

TRAVEL TICKETS

14. Those delegates who intend travelling by train are asked to contact the relevant railway networks directly to obtain any facilitated transport services.

Yours faithfully

(François Davenne)
Secretary General

cc:
– interested international organisations and associations, as an invitation
– railway undertakings, with the request to honour the above-mentioned free travel