The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey presents its compliments to the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and, with reference to its Note 2013/88640391-Bern BE/712314 of 31 July 2013, has the honour to enclose herewith the original of the letter of H.E. Binali Yıldırım, Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communication of the Republic of Turkey, addressed to H.E. François Davanne, Secretary-General of the OTIF, in reply to the Secretary-General's letter dated 9 July 2013.

The Embassy would appreciate the conveyance of the letter to its High Destination.

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail the assurances of its highest consideration.

Bern, 09 August 2013

Encl.

Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF)
BERN
Mr. François DAVANNE  
Secretary General  
OTIF

Ankara, 17 July 2013

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Referring to your letter dated 9 July 2013 on the OTIF ECM Rules, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to you for presenting comprehensive information on the application of COTIF and its appendices.

As you may know, The Government Decree-Law no. 655 on “Organization and Duties of the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications” was published in the Official Gazette of 1 November 2011. With the Decree-Law, my Ministry passed through a major restructuring and in accordance with its Article 8 (Annex I) General Directorate of Railway Transport Regulation was established.

General Directorate of Railway Transport Regulation is responsible for the regulation of the Turkish railway transport, and it has also been designated as the Safety Body in the railway sector.

Besides, with the entry into force of the “Law on the Liberalization of the Turkish Railway Transportation” on 1 May 2013, Turkish State Railways (TCDD) is being reorganized as Railway Infrastructure Operator (TCDD) and Train Operator (TCDD Taşımacılık A.Ş).
In accordance with your query at your reference letter on the competent entities in Turkish railway sector, please be informed that the General Directorate of Railway Transport Regulation is assigned to be “Competent Authority”, “Assessing Entity”, “ECM Supervising Body”, “The entity in charge of establishing and keeping the national Vehicle Register (NVR)” and “The national authority competent for filling Vehicle keeper Markings (VKM) and forwarding VKM to the OTIF Secretariat “. Yet, currently, there is no entity in Turkey that is commissioned to act as the ECM Certification Body.

Within this scope, I would like to kindly ask you to include the General Directorate of Railway Transport Regulation to the OTIF list of ECM Certification Bodies to render it competent to certify the Entity in Charge of Maintenance to conduct the maintenance and repair works of Turkish freight wagons.

Sincerely,

Binali YILDIRIM

Attachments:
1- Article 8 (Annex I) of The Government Decree-Law no. 655
2- Law on the Liberalization of the Turkish Railway Transportation