On 12 June 2015 in Berne, His Excellency the Ambassador of Sweden to Switzerland, Mr Magnus Hartog-Holm, presented the instrument of ratification of the 1999 Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF) to the Secretary General of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), Mr François Davenne. Sweden’s ratification means it will apply COTIF 1999 and its seven appendices. Like Italy’s ratification some months ago, this represents a major step forward in terms of legal certainty in international rail transport. It contributes to the development of a coherent area for international rail traffic from both a legal and technical perspective.

All continental European States have now ratified the 1999 version of COTIF.

Sweden, a founding member of OTIF following its signing of COTIF 1980 on 9 May 1980, has applied the International Convention for the carriage of goods by rail (CIM, which later became Appendix B to COTIF) since 1907. With 11,000 km of railway lines, Sweden has an extensive rail network which also links up to its Danish and Norwegian neighbours.