

# NRA



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ON COOPERATION BETWEEN  
THE  
NATIONAL RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
AND  
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR INTERNATIONAL  
CARRIAGE BY RAIL**

The National Railway Administration (NRA) of the People's Republic of China and the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), together hereinafter referred to as the Parties, have agreed that: the establishment of a pragmatic cooperation relationship on the basis of equality, mutual respect and benefit, is conducive to railway connectivity and interoperability in the Euro-Asian region, to the development of international railway through transport between Asia and Europe, and to support the "Belt and Road" initiative. To this end, the Parties have reached the following understanding:

**Article I  
Areas of Cooperation**

1. The Parties intend that cooperation should cover (but should not be limited to) the following areas:
  - a. Developing and improving railway through transport between Asia and Europe;
  - b. Conducting exchanges in terms of regulations on through international railway transport, railway technical standards, transportation corridor layout, etc.;
  - c. Promoting the use of the common CIM/SMGS consignment note in railway through transport between Asia and Europe, studying problems that occur in using the common consignment note and finding solutions to such problems;
  - d. Promoting the organisation of trains from China to Europe, studying problems that occur in the operation of Sino-European freight trains and finding solutions to such problems;

- e. Making concrete action plans on the basis of research to improve the Parties' cooperation in advancing their connectivity and interoperability, and driving the "Belt and Road" initiative;
  - f. Sharing experience in railway regulation;
  - g. Studying the issues for promoting cooperation between the Parties, including China's accession to OTIF in an appropriate form.
2. The Parties may propose special subjects to cooperate on and make suggestions on the form and content of such work.
3. Areas of cooperation as described in paragraph 1 of this Article should be implemented within each party's scope of ability. This Memorandum may be amended or supplemented by suggestions, mutual consultation and agreement of the Parties, according to Article IV of this Memorandum.

## **Article II**

### **Forms of Cooperation**

The Parties have agreed on the following forms of cooperation:

- a. Participating in important conferences and activities organised by the other Party;
- b. Organising joint workshops and working conferences;
- c. Exchanging information on the practice, legislation and planning of cooperation concerning this Memorandum.

## **Article III**

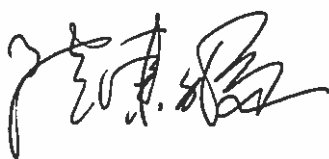
### **Participation in Conferences**

1. When invited, representatives of one Party may participate in conferences organised by the other Party.
2. Representatives of one Party shall be entitled to speak at conferences organised by the other Party.

**Article IV**  
**Supplementary Provisions**

1. Each side should bear its own costs resulting from cooperation under this Memorandum, unless otherwise mutually agreed in writing.
2. This Memorandum is not an international convention, thus it does not create any right or obligation under international law.
3. This Memorandum may be modified or supplemented by mutual consultation and agreement of the Parties, in order to amend and/or broaden the areas of cooperation between the Parties.
4. Amendments or supplementary items to this Memorandum shall be edited in the form of a supplementary protocol to this Memorandum, and shall be treated as an integral part thereof.
5. In case of any matter arising in relation to the implementation of this Memorandum or any divergence arising in relation to the interpretation of any individual item in this Memorandum, the Parties may address these problems through friendly consultations.
6. This Memorandum shall become effective upon signature. There is no fixed duration for this Memorandum. Either Party may discontinue its participation in this Memorandum at any time, but should endeavour to provide six (6) months prior written notice to the other Party.
7. This Memorandum is signed in Berne (Switzerland), in duplicate, this 12th day of July, 2016, in Chinese and English. In case of divergence, the English text shall prevail.

FOR THE NATIONAL RAILWAY  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



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Lu Dongfu  
Administrator

FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANISATION FOR  
INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE BY  
RAIL



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François Davenne  
Secretary General