

Memorandum of Understanding
between
the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
and
the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT)

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the International Rail Transport Committee (CIT) hereinafter referred to as 'Parties';

Bearing in mind that both ECO and CIT carry out activities in the field of transport, including rail transport,

Considering the objectives to promote and support the uniform technical standards in the railway transport, and

Convinced that mutual benefits to both the ECO and CIT would accrue from close cooperation between them in the attainment of their objectives;

Hereby agree to promote cooperation in the areas of common interest as follows:

I. **Exchange of Information**

1. Each party shall keep the other regularly informed on the programmes and activities of mutual interest as well as the exchange of the bulletins and other appropriate documents that address the matters of common interest.
2. Exchange of information will include aspects of legal and technical matters, comprising the following:
 - a) coordinated actions in order to promote, improve and facilitate, in all respects, the application of the international conventions/rules and regulations on traffic by rail;
 - b) plans for the development and keeping up to date of uniform legal and technical regimes for the transport by rail on inter-regional or regional level;
 - c) improving the physical infrastructure and streamlining border crossing procedures and formalities as a way to remove avoidable obstacles to the crossing of frontiers in international rail traffic;
 - d) promote standard instructions to augment and interpret the legal texts, and set up agreements to define the legal relationships between the railways in the ECO region.
3. In conformity with the rules and policies of each Organization, the preparation and implementation of the joint projects, studies and researches, including the development of uniformed legal parameters and standards of railways and rolling-stocks as well as the relevant infrastructure of the stations for use in regional and inter-regional railways carriages with the aim of improving the efficiency of utilization of existing railway network and its infrastructure facilities.

II. Consultation and Cooperation

4. Where necessary, the Parties shall consult and cooperate with each other through working meetings and other means, on matters referred to in Chapter I above.
5. Subject to decisions that may be taken by their respective decision-making bodies concerning participation in their meetings, the ECO Secretariat and the Secretary General of CIT shall invite each other to attend their relevant meetings as observers on reciprocal basis.
6. ECO and CIT may jointly organize training seminars and workshops at country/regional levels on different aspects of the international railway regimes.
7. In this context, both ECO and CIT may, in cooperation with their members address various issues concerning international railway transport between Asia and Europe with a regional impact within/outside the ECO region and seek the support of other international bodies as the case may be.
8. CIT may provide ECO with Technical Assistance for preparation of ECO rules and regulations for freight and passenger traffic by rail.

III. Concluding Provisions

9. This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the approval of the appropriate decision-making bodies of the two Parties and shall enter into force immediately upon signature by the Secretary General of ECO and the Secretary General of CIT.
10. No provision of this MoU shall infringe upon the respective mandates of ECO and CIT in accordance with their relevant rules and procedures.
11. This MoU can be modified by mutual written consent and/or terminated by either Party upon six months prior written notice to the other.
12. In witness whereof, the Secretary General of ECO and the Secretary General of CIT have signed this MoU in two original copies in English language.

Signed at 30.8.2010.

For the Economic
Cooperation Organization

M. Yayha Maroofi
Secretary General

For the CIT

Tomas Leimgruber
Secretary General