

Memorandum of Understanding
between
the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
and
the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail
(OTIF)

The Secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF), hereinafter referred to as 'Parties';

Considering that both ECO and OTIF have in their composition common Member States,

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

Convinced that mutual benefits to both the ECO and OTIF would accrue from close cooperation between them in the attainment of their objectives as set forth in the Treaty of Izmir (ECO) and the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF);

Hereby agree to promote cooperation in the field of uniform legal and technical regimes for railway transport as follows:

I. Exchange of Information

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.

Exchange of information will include aspects of legal and technical matters comprising the following:

coordinated actions in order to promote, improve and facilitate, in all respects, international traffic by rail;
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 including mutual assistance to overcome disclosed problems with regard to changes or differences in the applicable provisions;
removal of obstacles to the crossing of frontiers in international rail traffic to the extent that the causes of these obstacles are within the responsibility of States.

II. Consultation and Cooperation

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.

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 OTIF shall invite each other to attend their relevant meetings as observers on reciprocal basis.

ECO and OTIF may jointly organize training seminars and workshops at country/regional levels on different aspects of the international railway regimes and provide advisory services on specific requests of the Member States.

In this context, both ECO and OTIF 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.

III. Concluding Provisions

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 OTIF.

No provision of this MoU shall infringe upon the respective mandates of ECO and OTIF in accordance with their relevant rules and procedures.

This MoU can be modified by mutual written consent and/or terminated by either Party upon six months prior written notice to the other.

In witness whereof, the Secretary General of ECO and the Secretary General of OTIF have signed this MoU in two original copies in English language.

Signed at Istanbul on 9th June, 2009.

Khurshid Anwar
Secretary General of ECO

Stefan Schimming
Secretary General of OTIF