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FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL RAIL TRANSPORT

Interoperability and harmonization of conditions of different rail transport systems

Transmitted by OTIF and OSJD

**OTIF**

Intergovernmental Organisation
for International Carriage by Rail

**OSJD**

Organisation for Railways Cooperation

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Harmonization of the different rail transport systems

Joint report to the UNECE Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2) on co-operation between OTIF and OSJD

Cooperation between OTIF and OSJD is based on the document entitled "Common Position", signed in 2002 in order to update the two law systems, increase the volume of traffic, develop the transport corridors, facilitate border crossing procedures and technically equip rolling stock. To this effect OTIF and OSJD annually agree upon joint plans of action.

With regard to the facilitation of border crossing, the work covered the alignment with the European Community's comments and proposals of a new Annex 9 to the 1982 "Harmonization Convention" (facilitation of international rail freight transport), which was submitted to UN/ECE as a joint proposal from both Organisations in October 2007.

OTIF and OSJD agreed on a position concerning the comments and questions raised by DG TREN. These addressed, for example, the term "border (interchange) station", questions concerning the equipment at such stations in relation to the processing of data on the technical approval or technical inspection of rolling stock, the content of technical inspections whose performance has to be coordinated and the monitoring of stops at borders.

Thanks to the efficient coordination between the two Organisations, additional questions from DG TREN, which had been sent to both Secretariats in consultation with DG TAXUD, were also clarified.

OTIF and OSJD transmitted the adapted draft text to the UN/ECE Secretariat on 30 October 2008, thus ensuring that the text was available as an official document for the 121st session of WP.30 (2-6.2.2009). The draft prepared jointly by OSJD and OTIF was discussed and adopted with an addition requested by the EC and subject to some editorial modifications.

Following the results of the 122nd session of WP.30 (16-19.6.2009) both Organisations coordinated their position with regard to additional adaptations (suggested by the WP.30 Secretariat in accordance with a suggestion of the EC in order to avoid possible inconsistency between the new Annex 9 and the body and/or other Annexes of the Harmonisation Convention).

With regard to overcoming legal obstacles in rail freight transport between the OSJD

Member States and the OTIF Member States, work is being continued in the context of the CIT-OSJD project on the "Interoperability of transport law" (CIM/SMGS consignment note).

The field of application of the CIM/SMGS consignment note has been enlarged. This consignment note has been already used on 30 routes. Work is also being carried out on enlargement of the field of application of the consignment note in the Eurasian space.

Functional, legal and technical specifications of the electronic CIM/SMGS consignment note were worked out this year. Currently they are recommendatory.

Introduction of the consignment note into goods transportation process in international traffic of the OSJD-OTIF countries will result a great economic effect in regard to reduction of time for crossing of border points as well as in the whole transportation process.

With the support of OTIF, OSJD continues to attach great importance to updating the provisions on the carriage of dangerous goods. In updating these provisions, the amendments that have been incorporated into the relevant national and international regulations and the particular operational features of the railways of the OSJD Member States are being taken into account.

Regulations concerning the carriage of dangerous goods (Annex 2 to the SMGS Agreement), which were updated on the basis of the 15th edition of the UN Recommendations, RID 2009 and ADR 2009, entered into force on 1 July 2009. At present, the provisions only have minor differences.

In accordance with the agreed OSJD-OTIF work plan, delegations of the OSJD Member States and representatives from the OSJD Committee took part in the Joint Meetings of the RID Committee of Experts and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15).

The members of the XXXV session of the OSJD Ministers Conference agreed on basic principles of revision of the Agreement about International Passenger Traffic (SMPS) which shall take into account the current SMPS and CIV.

To fulfill this task the OSJD established an Ad Hoc Working Group on SMPS revision.

In 2007-2009 the Ad Hoc WG worked out a new draft SMPS and draft Manual to SMPS.

The Ad Hoc WG has also worked out draft General Provisions of the Agreement about Passengers Transportation in International Traffic as an Annex to the draft OSJD Convention about Direct International Traffic.

OTIF took an active part in the work of the Ad Hoc WG on creation of the above-mentioned documents.

In the technical area, OTIF participates in the work of OSJD Commission V's expert working group on infrastructure and rolling stock, in particular, in drafting a joint UIC - OSJD leaflet for the carriage of exceptional consignments on the 1520 and 1435 mm gauge networks. OTIF participates in the annual meetings of this Commission, at which OTIF provides information on its activities in the technical sector.

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