TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES

24th Session of the Revision Committee
Berne, 23-25 June 2009

Invitation and provisional agenda
1. By virtue of Article 16 § 2 of COTIF, the Secretary General hereby convenes the 24th session of the Revision Committee on

   Tuesday, 23 June to Thursday, 25 June 2009.

The meeting will be held at the headquarters of the Universal Postal Union, Weltpoststraße 4, 3000 Bern 15, and will begin on Tuesday, 23 June 2009 at 10.00.

The meeting will be convened subject to the proviso that the Secretary General receives the positive reactions still awaited from each of the competent EC bodies by the deadline for the meeting documents to be sent out (23 April 2009).

2. As the previous (23rd) session of the Committee took place on 23 March 1999 before the Vilnius Protocol version of COTIF entered into force and as the latest version of its Rules of Procedure dates from 14 December 1989, they must be aligned with the current version of the Convention. First of all therefore, the Committee will have to discuss and take a decision on the proposal for a new version of its Rules of Procedure based on the versions of the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation’s other organs (General Assembly, Administrative Committee and RID Committee of Experts, all dated 1.7.2006 and Committee of Technical Experts dated 12.2.2009), which have all been updated in the meantime.

3. The other topic the meeting will have to discuss is the proposed amendments to provisions of the Convention and its Appendices E, F and G, for which the Committee has responsibility in accordance with Article 17 § 1 and Article 33 § 4 a), e), f) and g). The proposed amendments are listed in the attached provisional agenda.

4. Along with amendments to the text, the Committee will also have to take decisions on an Explanatory Report. This contains

   a) the background and justification for the amendments that have been submitted to the Revision Committee for adoption, and

   b) explanations on the interpretation of provisions for which the General Assembly has responsibility in accordance with Article 33 § 4 e) of the Convention.

The items under a) must be approved by the Revision Committee, together with the amendments, and will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly.

With regard to the provisions under b), the Revision Committee is to submit considerations and recommendations to the General Assembly. It is the General Assembly’s responsibility to approve the contents.

5. In order to ensure that there is a quorum for all decisions, particularly those to which the second sentence of Article 16 § 1 applies, the Secretary General emphatically requests all Member States to be represented at this meeting and reminds them that those Member States that are unable to send a delegation of their own can be represented by another Member States in accordance with Article 16 § 3 of COTIF. Written delegation of authority would have to be brought to the attention of the Secretary General.
6. By virtue of Article 16 § 5 of COTIF, the Secretary General also invites the States, organisations and associations listed in the annex to take part in the meeting in an advisory capacity, provided the Member States do not lodge corresponding objections with him by 11 April 2009.

7. In order to organise the meeting efficiently, you are kindly requested to inform the Secretary General of the names and functions of your representatives using the attached registration form. The completed form must be returned to the Secretary General by 22 May 2009.

(Stefan Schimming)
Secretary General

Annexes:
– List of observers invited
– Provisional agenda
– Registration form

cc:
– Commission of the European Communities, DG TREN
  Rue J.-A. Demot, 24-28, BE – 1049 Brussels
List of observers invited

a) States

Egypt
Azerbaijan
Belarus
China
Georgia
India
Israel
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyz Republic
Libya
Moldova
Mongolia
Montenegro
Pakistan
Palestinian Autonomous Authority
Russian Federation
Saudi-Arabia
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan
b) Organisations and associations

– United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), Transport Division, Palais des Nations, CH - 1211 Genève 10

– International Transport Forum (ITF), 2, rue André-Pascal, FR - 75775 Paris Cedex 16

– Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), 1 Golbou Alley, Kamranieh, P.O. Box 14155-6176, IR - Tehran

– Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, Kärntner Ring 5-7, AT - 1010 Vienna

– International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), Villa Aldobrandini, Via Panisperna 28, IT - 00184 Rome


– International Association of Private Sidings Users (AIEP), Suracherstrasse 6, Postfach 31, CH - 8142 Uitikon/Zurich

– European Committee for Standardization (CEN), Rue de Stassart 36, BE - 1050 Brussels

– European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), Boîte 5, Rue de Stassart 35, BE - 1050 Brussels

– Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), Avenue des Arts, 53, BE - 1000 Brussels

– European Intermodal Association (EIA), Rue Ravenstein 60, BP 21, BE - 1000 Brussels

– European Railway Agency (ERA), BP 20392, F-59307 Valenciennes Cedex

– European Rail Freight Association (ERFA), Avenue de la Renaissance 1, BE - 1000 Brussels

– European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM), Rue de la Tourelle 21, BE - 1040 Brussels

– European Shippers' Council (ESC), Park Leopold, Rue Wiertz 50, BE - 1050 Brussels
– International Association of Tariff Specialists (IVT)
  Postfach 355, Europaplatz 1, AT - 1150 Vienna

– International Rail Transport Committee (CIT),
  Generalsekretariat, Weltpoststrasse 20, CH - 3015 Bern

– International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA),
  Schaffhauserstrasse 104, P.O.Box 364, CH - 8152 Glattbrugg

– Rail Net Europe (RNE),
  Annagasse 12/5, A-1010 Vienna

– Arab Union of Railways (UACF),
  B.P. 6599, Alep (Syria)

– International Union of Railways (UIC),
  Direction générale, 16, rue Jean Rey, FR - 75015 Paris

– International Union of Private Wagons (UIP),
  Boulevard du Souverain 53, Boîte 17, BE - 1160 Brussels

– International Association of Public Transport
  Rue Sainte-Marie 6 (Quai des Charbonnages), BE - 1080 Brussels

– International Union of combined Road-Rail transport companies (UIRR),
  31, rue Montoyer - bte 11, BE - 1000 Brussels

– Association of European Railway Industries (UNIFE),
  221, Avenue Louise (B.11), BE - 1050 Brussels