



Memorandum of Understanding signed between the National Railway Administration of China and the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail.

On Tuesday, 12 July, a delegation from China's National Railway Administration (NRA) visited the offices of the Intergovernmental Organisation for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) in Berne.

The aim of the visit was to establish a working relationship between the two institutions. The Vice-Minister of Transport, Mr Lu Dongfu, and the Secretary General of OTIF, together with their staff, discussed the main challenges for rail traffic between Europe and Asia. The Secretariat of OTIF gave presentations on the various advantages of the legal and technical instruments of the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF).

Later in the day, the NRA and OTIF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which sets out the initial elements of their cooperation, particularly:

1. Conducting exchanges in terms of regulations on through international railway transport, railway technical standards, transportation corridor layout, etc.;
2. 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;
3. Studying problems that occur in the operation of Sino-European freight trains and finding solutions to such problems.

The terms of this cooperation are part of China's major "Belt and Road" project. The development and improvement of rail transport between Asia and Europe are key elements in reviving the Silk Road network to the benefit of all the countries concerned.

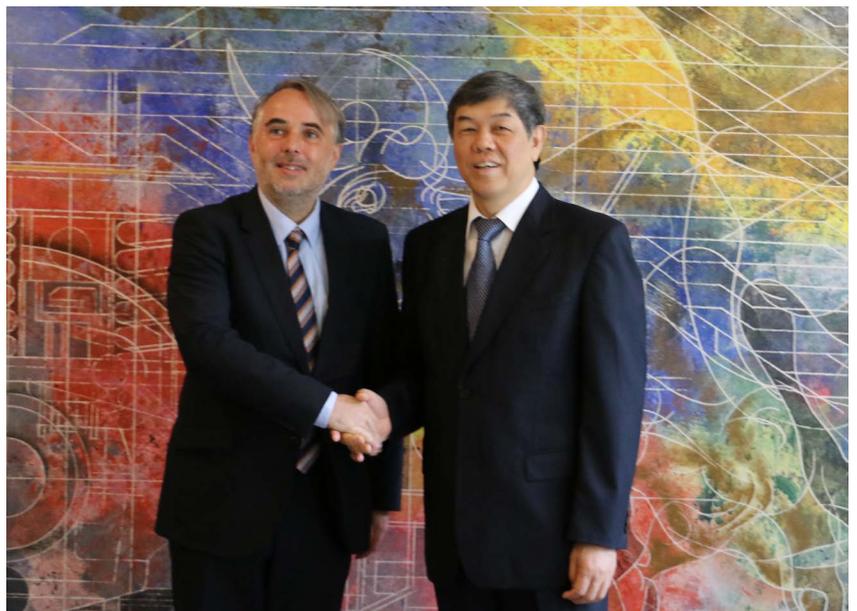
The MoU marks the beginning of cooperation between China and OTIF. It is an expression of China's interest in OTIF's legal and technical tools. It also signals China's willingness to examine the possibility of perhaps acceding to OTIF. The Secretariat welcomes this agreement, which is a founding step for cooperation with the People's Republic of China.

National Railway Administration (NRA)

The National Railway Administration and China Railway Corporation were established to separate administrative affairs from business affairs in the railway industry.

The National Railway Administration is responsible for research on railway policy, the development plan, institutional reform and other administrative affairs of the former Ministry of Railways, and is in charge of the establishment of railway technical standards, supervision of railway safety, operational quality and construction quality.

NRA is also responsible for establishing the standards of the Chinese railway industry, as well as intergovernmental railway cooperation.



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