

## Press release

### **Extension of the contract: Environmentally friendly block train between Bludenz and Vienna remains on track**

**Gebrüder Weiss and ÖBB Rail Cargo Group (RCG) have so far moved around 180,000 truck journeys on to rails with Orange Combi Cargo (OCC) / Noise-optimized railcars are coming / Connection to South-East Europe optimized**

**Vienna / Lauterach, October 6, 2020.** More than twelve years ago, on January 7, 2008, the ÖBB Rail Cargo Group (RCG) and Gebrüder Weiss launched what has become a successful operation: the Orange Combi Cargo (OCC). The block train has since been operating on a daily basis between Bludenz and Vienna, earning a reputation in the Austrian business world as a punctual and environmentally friendly transport alternative. Both contracting partners have now officially extended the cooperation, meaning that the Orange Combi Cargo will be connecting the west of Austria to the nation's capital for at least another three years. The OCC will also continue making a stopover in Hall in Tyrol, where additional goods are loaded.

Replacing around 60 truck journeys between Vienna and western Austria every day, the positive environmental impact of the OCC is plain to see, with the multimodal solution saving around 9,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. "Over the course of twelve years, we have been able to relocate some 180,000 truck journeys from road to rail," says Walter Konzett, Director Product Management Land Transport at Gebrüder Weiss. The two companies have now agreed to implement a range of measures to optimize noise protection, with the existing wagons to be gradually replaced by noise-optimized container wagons.

The OCC's connection to destinations further east of Austria was also further optimized: Rail journeys can now be directly continued to Romania or Turkey via ÖBB's Vienna intermodal hub. Further transport integration measures are also planned with the aim of offering customers from western Austria, eastern Switzerland and southern Germany an even more convenient and environmentally friendly way to connect to destinations in South-East Europe. "By expanding the network along Austria's east-west axis, we are making a significant contribution to environmental protection efforts as well as fostering better conditions to continue promoting the drive to use rail more in the future," said Bernhard Ebner, Head of the Intermodal Division of ÖBB RCG.



**Caption:** The OCC block train cooperation has been extended (from left to right): Walter Konzett, Director Product Management Land Transport of Gebrüder Weiss, Thomas Kargl, Member of the Board of Management of the Rail Cargo Group, Wolfram Senger-Weiss, CEO of Gebrüder Weiss and Bernhard Ebner, Business Unit Manager Intermodal Rail Cargo Group. (Source: Gebrüder Weiss)



**Caption:** The Orange Combi Cargo service replaces around 60 truck journeys between Vienna and western Austria every day, equivalent to saving around 9,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> every year. (Source: Gebrüder Weiss)

### **About Rail Cargo Group: ÖBB's freight transport arm**

With 9,340 employees, subsidiaries throughout Europe and an annual turnover of around 2.3 billion euros, the Rail Cargo Group ranks among Europe's leading rail logistics companies. The Rail Cargo Group operates a comprehensive network of end-to-end logistics in Europe and beyond to Asia in cooperation with strong partners, linking European conurbations and ports with prospering economic centres in Russia, Turkey, and China. The operational holding company of the Rail Cargo Group is Rail Cargo Austria AG.

## **About Gebrüder Weiss**

Gebrüder Weiss is one of Europe's leading transport and logistics companies, employing over 7,300 people at 150 company locations with an annual turnover of 1.7 billion euros (2019). In addition to its main businesses of Land Transport, Air and Sea Freight, and Logistics, the company has a number of highly specialized industry solutions and subsidiaries under the umbrella of Gebrüder Weiss Holding AG based in Lauterach (Austria). These including the logistics consultancy x|vise, (industry specialist for high-tech companies), dicall (communications solutions, market research, training), Rail Cargo (rail transport) and Gebrüder Weiss parcel service, co-owner of the Austrian company DPD. Pooling different activities and services in this way enables the Group to respond quickly and flexibly to customer needs. The family-owned company, with a 500-year-long history in the transport business, is today considered a pioneer in terms of sustainable business practices, having implemented a wide range of environmental, economic and social measures.

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