

Press release

ÖBB Rail Cargo Group and Pasifik Eurasia put freight on track together

- **New partnership connects Europe and Asia and further develops potential of the New Silk Road**
- **Turkey's Terminal Köseköy a key hub for trans-continental freight transport**
- **Opportunity to expand portfolio of fast, efficient and eco-friendly transport services across the Eurasian content**

(Vienna, 31/05/2021) – ÖBB Rail Cargo Group (RCG) and Pasifik Eurasia (PASİFİK EURASIA) have formed a new partnership to develop rail freight transport on the Eurasian continent. The partnership will strengthen the connection between Europe and Asia via the Terminal Köseköy, which is a vital link for transport to and from Turkey as well as on into the CIS countries and China.

As part of the partnership, PASİFİK EURASIA will forward goods from Asia to Köseköy, where ÖBB RCG steps in to bring them on to the West of Europe. In turn, the ÖBB RCG will also be transporting goods from the Western Europe to Köseköy, where PASİFİK EURASIA will pick up the baton and transport them to Azerbaijan, Kazakstan and Uzbekistan and on into China. In this way, the two companies are strengthening supply chains across the Eurasian continent via sustainable rail transport and bringing us closer to reaching global climate targets.

Köseköy as the linchpin for freight transport in Turkey

The ÖBB RCG and Pasifik Eurasia play a leading role in European logistics for transport from China to Europe via Turkey. 17 members of RCG staff are based in Istanbul and ÖBB RCG currently provides 10 round trips per week from Europe to Turkey. Most of the trains go to the Halkali terminal in Istanbul. Through the cooperation with PASİFİK EURASIA, these trains will also approach the terminal Köseköy on the Asian side of Turkey. Köseköy is one of TCDD's 19 logistics centres and is operated by PASİFİK EURASIA. It is the closest freight terminal to Istanbul. The Terminal is primarily used by the automotive, steel and wood industries and is a key hub for transport on the Eurasian continent. Turkey has long been declared "the bridge between Orient and Occident". Its geographical location between Europe and Asia makes it a powerhouse for many European economies and a key strategic market.

Potential for the future of rail freight across Eurasia

ÖBB RCG and Pasifik Eurasia are gradually expanding their international scope in Europe and on the land bridge to Asia for the benefit of customers. The New Silk Road has therefore been one of the ÖBB RCG's focal points for several years. The first services to China along the New Silk Road were officially launched in 2017 and the company has been expanding its range of services considerably ever since. The ÖBB RCG set a new record in 2020, having

transported around 70,000 TEU in over 700 trains along this route. With its connections to the New Silk Road, the ÖBB RCG's dense, high-performance network in Europe guarantees fast, efficient and eco-friendly transport services and onward distribution throughout Asia .

PASİFİK EURASIA is the official forwarder of the Turkish State Railways TCDD and member of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route Middle Corridor Union. The company is committed to developing the potential of transport services to and from Turkey into the CIS countries and China along the New Silk Road. PASİFİK EURASIA is also very active along the Silk Road Middle Corridor with good connections to Azerbaijan Railways, Georgian Railways and Kazakstan Railways, which all oPasifik Eurasia rate along this route. Furthermore, PASİFİK EURASIA also operates the Terminal Köseköy that connects Western and Eastern Europe. This partnership brings enormous potential for the future of rail freight on the Eurasian continent.

Pasifik Eurasia

Pacific Eurasia enriches international trade with transit transports between Asia and Europe. It offers many different logistics options in order to develop logistics alternatives and chains. Pacific Eurasia operates as the official Operator of TCDD in order to contribute to employment and exports of Turkey. It is the only official representative of TCDD on the Pacific Eurasia BTK railway line (Georgia-Azerbaijan-Kazakhstan-China) and on the Northern corridor line with the agreement signed with Russia. Pasifik Eurasia operated the first import train from China to Europe and from Turkey to China and also, the first export train organizations to Russia were carried out by Pacific Eurasia. It has offices in 8 different countries. Pacific Eurasia, which is a leading company in railway transportation thanks to its 12 domestic and international terminals, realizes 90% of BKT lines to and from Turkey. It provides Door-to-Door services, which is a first in Turkish Railway transportation.

Rail Cargo Group: the freight transport division of the ÖBB

The Rail Cargo Group is one of the leading rail logistics companies in Europe. We are the ones shaping the industry – 365 days a year – 24 hours a day. Across Pasifik Eurasia and beyond into Asia. We connect people, businesses and markets – from the first to the last mile. It's thanks to our 9,340 members of staff from 34 nations located in 18 different countries that 460,000 trains a year, which means 1,260 a day, reach their destinations safe and sound. With our efficient end-to-end logistics services, we transport 95 million net tonnes of freight each year. We have a modal share of 28.2% of the total freight market in Austria, which makes us top of the league in Europe. Every year, we save the climate from around 1.1 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions in Austria. Operational management of the Rail Cargo Group lies with Rail Cargo Austria AG.

ÖBB: Today. Tomorrow. Together.

As a comprehensive mobility and logistics service provider, the ÖBB Group's eco-friendly transport services brought 287 million passengers and over 95 million tonnes of freight safely to their destinations in 2020. The electricity that powers the company's trains and railway stations comes from 100 percent renewable energy sources. With a punctuality rating of around 97 percent in passenger transport, the ÖBB ranks as one of the most punctual rail companies in Europe. With annual investments in rail infrastructure of over three billion Euro, the ÖBB is building the railways of tomorrow. Across the Group, almost 42,000 members of bus and rail staff and around 2,000 apprentices make sure around 1.3 million travellers and 1,300 freight trains reach their destinations safely. The ÖBB is the backbone of the public transport system. As the largest eco-friendly business in Austria, the ÖBB brings people and freight wherever they need to go, safely and sustainably. The company's strategic management lies with ÖBB-Holding AG.



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