

## Press release

### **ÖBB financial statement 2020: Navigating through the crisis with a steady hand – EUR 25 billion investment plan through to 2026**

- Ready to invest for the upswing and recovery from the crisis
- 700 million in revenue losses shouldered by own **extensive** cost cutting and government railway package

(Vienna, 23 April 2021) – Despite difficult circumstances and major challenges posed by the Covid crisis, the company succeeded in absorbing the sharp 700 million euro drop in revenue in 2020. By quickly implementing countermeasures and making massive savings of around EUR 380 million, ÖBB was able to shoulder more than half of the loss of revenue itself. This was supplemented by a very reasonable railway package from the federal government to help the entire sector. In the end, the balance sheet of the previous year shows a black zero for all ÖBB sub-groups. Active crisis management enabled the Group to break even with a slight plus (EBT just under EUR 59 million).

ÖBB Chairman of the Executive Board Andreas Matthä: "2020 was a tough year, which of course also posed enormous challenges to ÖBB. Covid-19 resulted in a drop in revenue amounting to EUR 700 million. We put countermeasures in place very quickly and navigated through the crisis consistently right from the start. This enabled us to save EUR 380 million through our own efforts. The option of short-time work and the Federal Government's prudent railway package of around EUR 200 million - in the form of emergency contracts on the western line, additional orders and a reduction in rail tolls - have enabled us to break-even in 2020.

ÖBB Chief Financial Officer Arnold Schiefer: "The marginally positive EBT is important especially with regard to ensuring the investment capacity of the entire ÖBB Group. This enables us to secure not only the trust of the financial markets, but also the most attractive financing conditions possible. After all, we are making investments of over EUR 25 billion in the coming years leading up to 2026."

#### **Passenger numbers drop by more than 90 per cent in passenger transport**

Throughout the Covid crisis, ÖBB has continued to provide environmentally friendly transportation by train and bus throughout Austria. This ensured that those keeping the system alive, shop assistants, police officers, nurses, etc., could get to work and home safely and on time. In 2020, 286.5 million passengers used ÖBB's mobility services. In total, this was 190 million less than the year before. At the peak of the crisis, the decline in passengers was more than 90 per cent and the average annual decline remains at 40 per cent. This is in line with passenger numbers at the end of the 1980s.

#### **Freight transport: Supply to trade and industry secured without interruption**

Even at the worst point of the crisis, the ÖBB Rail Cargo Group delivered every tonne reliably and safely to its destination, both in Austria and throughout Europe as well all

the way to Asia. From raw materials for industry to pasta, tomato sauce and toilet paper, RCG covers the entire transport spectrum. The commitment to crisis management shown by the team in the 18 countries was particularly acknowledged in the customer satisfaction analysis. At the same time, in 2020 the RCG was able to achieve significant steps in the internationalisation and expansion of TransNET and lead the digitalisation initiative to its first interim success with the GO-Live of the digital assistant MIKE.

### **Infrastructure: EUR 2.6 billion invested in renewal and expansion**

More than EUR 2.6 billion was invested in the renewal and expansion of the railway infrastructure, even in the crisis year 2020. With the exception of a few days, the 200 or so ÖBB-Infrastruktur construction sites were in full operation even during the Covid crisis – securing jobs throughout the supply chain. With the 2021-2026 framework plan of EUR 17.5 billion adopted by the Federal Government last year, the largest investment package ever was also set into motion. This creates EUR 5 billion in value annually for Austria as a business location and secures or creates 15,000 jobs for every billion invested.

"Despite all adversities, all three subgroups managed to break even. To achieve these results, the Group needed to move at different speeds in the crisis in 2020: We put the brakes on costs in passenger and freight transport while continuing to accelerate in infrastructure development. This was a major contribution by ÖBB to keeping the Austrian economy running," says CEO Matthä, explaining the approach to crisis management.

### **Fit for the future – EUR 25 billion in investments planned until 2026**

2021 will continue to be challenging for ÖBB. As the vaccination of the population increases and normality gradually returns, ÖBB intends to pick up full speed again and drive Austria forward as a business location with a broad investment programme.

A comprehensive investment plan worth more than EUR 25 billion is in place for the period from 2021 to 2026. A large part of this – EUR 20.6 billion – will go towards the expansion of the railway infrastructure and renewable energies. Furthermore, considerable funds amounting to EUR 3.4 billion are being invested in the modernisation and expansion of the train fleet in the passenger transport sector. Last but not least, investments are also being made in new night trains to expand the ÖBB Nightjet network.

"In the night train segment, we want to once again significantly expand our pioneering role in Europe. We will resume the established programme at the beginning of the summer – for example to Rome, Venice, Milan, Livorno. We are introducing Amsterdam as a new destination, and Paris will finally be added at the end of the year," says Andreas Matthä, listing the Nightjet's destinations.

### **The #1 climate protection company also wants to be at the forefront of digitalisation**



Around EUR 1.5 billion will be invested in the digitalisation of the railway system over the next six years. Projects such as the graphic seat reservation or the wegfinder app, coupled with ÖBB360° offers for the first and last mile, are intended to make passenger transport even more customer friendly. In the infrastructure sector, work is underway on a "digital twin" of the ÖBB rail network in order to manage maintenance and network utilisation more efficiently and cost-effectively.

Digitalisation is also being driven forward in the freight transport sector. "End-to-end digitalisation will make freight transport by rail faster and more efficient. Rail logistics will thus become as easily accessible as road logistics. This is a direct step into the future," says Andreas Matthä. ÖBB will continue to be a reliable employer: 2,700 new hires can be expected per year until 2025.

Matthä concludes: "We were able to get through 2020 thanks to prudent action by the government and our own swift countermeasures with a consistent cost-cutting approach. ÖBB's ability to invest in and innovate for the future remains secure. We will continue to live up to our responsibility as Austria's No. 1 climate protection company and move to the forefront of the industry in terms of innovation and digitalisation."

**ÖBB: Today. For tomorrow. For us.**

As a comprehensive mobility and logistics service provider, ÖBB transported a total of 287 million passengers and over 95 million tonnes of goods to their destinations in a climate and environmentally friendly manner in 2020. The electricity for trains and stations is generated entirely from renewable energy sources. ÖBB is one of the most punctual railway operators in Europe, with a punctuality of around 97 per cent in passenger transport. With over EUR 3 billion invested annually in railway infrastructure, ÖBB is building the railway system of tomorrow. Across the Group, almost 42,000 bus and rail employees and an additional 2,000 apprentices ensure that up to 1.3 million passengers and around 1,300 freight trains arrive safely at their destinations every day. ÖBB is the backbone of Austrian public transport and, as Austria's largest climate protection company, gets people and goods to their destinations safely and in an environmentally friendly manner. The strategic lead company of the group is the ÖBB-Holding AG.

***You can find the presentation on the ÖBB Financial Statement 2020 at:***

**[www.oebb.at/bilanz2020](http://www.oebb.at/bilanz2020)**

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