

SBB Cargo International AG, Riggerbachstrasse 6, CH-4600 Olten

Olten, 22 November 2024

## **Press Release**

### **SBB Cargo International Expands to France**

**With the newly founded SBB Cargo France and its own safety certificate in France, SBB Cargo International is strengthening its role as market leader on the Rhine-Alpine corridor. From the start of operations at the next timetable change, some services will be operated via France.**

The establishment of the fifth subsidiary of SBB Cargo International was carefully prepared by Managing Director Omar Zerkly and Production Manager Amir Ounzerfi over a period of two years. On 21 November 2024, the company based in Huningue, Alsace, received the safety certificate for France from the European Railway Agency (ERA).

### **Strengthening Competitiveness on the North-South Axis**

The Rhine-Alpine corridor north of Basel is reaching its capacity limits, which will probably not be resolved until the 2040s. The route via France is therefore an important alternative for SBB Cargo International's transport operations. The expansion into France (with an operational site in Yutz/Thionville) will enable the company to operate transports on the left bank of the Rhine, in addition to its prospective growth, in order to avoid cancellations in the event of infrastructure bottlenecks in Germany and to offer resilience to customers.

### **Focus on the North-South Corridor**

SBB Cargo International moves around 550 trains a week thanks to its more than 1,000 employees in Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and France. As the market leader on the north-south axis through the Swiss Alps, the company's combined transport and conventional block train services are geared towards the needs of its customers. By shifting thousands of net tonnes from road to rail every week, the company makes an active contribution to climate protection.

With this step, SBB Cargo International is sending a clear signal for the future of rail freight transport. The company is determined to further expand its position as a leading provider on the Rhine-Alpine corridor.

### **Cross-National Safety and Quality Management**

Clearly defined business processes in a transnationally harmonised safety and quality management system also apply to SBB Cargo France. The training of train drivers, which has already taken place in recent months, is central here.

In recent months, train drivers from France and Switzerland have undergone intensive theoretical and practical training. While one part of the team will operate national routes in future, the other part will be able to operate both national and international routes. This significantly increases the flexibility and efficiency of operations, as interoperability is a key success factor in international rail freight transport.

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