

Press release by Cargo sous terrain AG

Basel, 8 December 2020

Prominent financial and non-financial support for Cargo sous terrain

The newly formed committee “Future Switzerland with Cargo sous terrain” brings together prominent personalities from the worlds of politics, business, and science, to voice their support for CST as a once-in-a-generation undertaking. The joint effort encapsulates the wide-ranging support for this privately financed project, which aims to re-shape logistics as part of everyday life. In January 2021, while the legislative process is still underway, CST will enter the construction permit phase sooner than originally planned – thanks to early funding made available by Swiss investors.



The members, their respective functions and statements are available at <https://www.cst.ch/en/committee/>.

The committee “Future Switzerland with Cargo sous terrain” reflects the broad support that CST enjoys across the political spectrum, in the business and science worlds, and in a wide range of civil-society organizations. This support is essential for CST, especially leading up to the adoption of the Federal Law on Underground Freight Transport (UGüTG), which will establish the legal framework for the construction and operation of this ground-breaking project. The Federal Council submitted the draft law to the Swiss Federal Assembly in October, and the conclusion of the first reading in parliament is expected in spring 2021.



Green-liberal National Councillor and member of the new committee Katja Christ underlined the fact that “Cargo sous terrain successfully combines economic efficiency with great environmental benefits.” Hans Wicki, liberal State Councillor and president of *Bauenschweiz*, the umbrella organization for the Swiss construction industry, stated that “the Cargo sous terrain project is comparable to the construction of the Gotthard tunnel two centuries ago, and will one day be seen as a pioneering Swiss achievement.” For social-democrat member of the National Council Roger Nordmann, CST is synonymous with “innovation, efficiency and environmental benefits”, and will help ensure high quality of life for the Swiss population.

Funds released earlier than planned

CST can enter the next stage of its development ahead of schedule. Thanks to early funding from CST investors, the construction permit phase will begin in January 2021, giving the project a further boost. The start of that phase was originally planned for 2022, after the entry into force of the Law on Underground Freight Transport (UGÜTG).

The broad approval for the law proposal confirmed by the consultation process, and the positive signs coming from the political world regarding the parliamentary debate, have encouraged investors to make more funds available earlier than planned, significantly speeding up the implementation of the project. This will allow CST to forge confidently ahead with more in-depth planning work to ensure that the project is ready for approval, further development of city logistics, and all necessary technical preparations. With over CHF 100 million in committed investments, the entire project will be fully funded until 2026, when construction is set to begin on the first section, from Härkingen to Zurich.

The wide range of Committee members and the support of around 70 investors is a perfect illustration of the fundamental ideal at the very heart of CST: innovation through collaboration. This trailblazing project is privately financed, with two-thirds of the funding coming from Swiss backers. It brings together companies from a wide variety of sectors, including transport, logistics, retail, telecommunications, insurance, finance, industry, IT, and energy. In addition to representatives of the largest CST shareholders, the new support committee also includes personalities from the business world and from civil society organizations. Monika Rühl, of the Swiss corporate union *economiesuisse*, describes CST as “a project in the best tradition of the Swiss economy: private initiative and funds, coupled with innovation and ingenuity, make the extraordinary possible.” Environmental pioneer Bertrand Piccard of Solar Impulse hailed CST as a case-in-point demonstrating that protecting the environment can also be a worthwhile financial investment.

Better quality of life through smart logistics

Expert committee members have also confirmed that, as a complete logistics system, CST can ensure the continuous flow of small-goods transport and promote smart mobility solutions. Alec von Graffenried, the mayor of Bern, highlighted that CST has enormous potential when it comes to improving quality of life, especially in urban areas, and noted that “by efficiently bundling the flow of goods, Cargo sous terrain can reduce traffic, emissions and noise in our cities”, while architect Pierre de Meuron sees CST as “a system developed by business for business, but also for people and their environment.”



The “Future Switzerland with CST” committee consists of the following members:

Katja Christ, Nationalrätin Basel-Stadt (GLP), Juristin/Anwältin
Roberto Cirillo, CEO Schweizerische Post
Pierre de Meuron, Herzog & de Meuron
Josef Dittli, Ständerat Uri (FDP), Präsident Verband verladende Wirtschaft (VAP)
Olivier Français, Conseiller aux Etats du canton de Vaud (PLR)
Prof. Dr. Karolin Frankenberger, Institut für Management & Strategie, Akademische Direktorin Executive MBA HSG
Peter Galliker, Geschäftsführer Galliker Transport AG
Dr. Philipp Gmür, CEO Helvetia Gruppe
Prof. Dr. Andreas Herrmann, Professor am Institut für Customer Insight HSG
Dieter Kläy, Kantonsrat Zürich (FDP), Ressortleiter Schweizerischer Gewerbeverband
Hansueli Loosli, VRP Swisscom & Coop
Ludovica Molo, Architektin
Roger Nordmann, Conseiller national du canton de Vaud (PS)
Prof. Dr. Bertrand Piccard, initiateur et président de la Fondation Solar Impulse
Michèle Rodoni, CEO Mobiliar (ab 01.01.2021)
Monika Rühl, Vorsitzende der Geschäftsleitung von economiesuisse
Elisabeth Schneider-Schneiter, Nationalrätin Basel-Landschaft (CVP), Präsidentin Handelskammer beider Basel
Martin Scholl, Zürcher Kantonalbank, Vorsitzender der Generaldirektion
Alec von Graffenried, Stadtpräsident Bern (Grüne Freie Liste)
Hans Wicki, Ständerat Nidwalden (FDP), Präsident Bauenschweiz

You can find all statements at <https://www.cst.ch/en/committee/>

Further information for the media

Peter Sutterlüti, Verwaltungsratspräsident CST AG
Tel. 079 300 06 79, peter.sutterlueti@cst.ch

Daniel Wiener, Verwaltungsrat & Head Investor Relations CST AG
Tel. 079 335 54 64, daniel.wiener@cst.ch

Patrik Aellig, Kommunikation CST AG
Tel. 078 764 13 88, patrik.aellig@cst.ch

