



Press release by Cargo sous terrain AG

Basel, 20 September 2021

Cargo sous terrain gets green light from Swiss Parliament

After today's National Council resolution, Cargo sous terrain is on the home straight: Both chambers of the Swiss Parliament have now said yes to the Federal Law on Underground Freight Transport (UGÜTG). Only a few details remain to be worked out between the two chambers before the law can enter into force. This is great news for CST, which can now go full steam ahead.

The Federal Law on Underground Goods Transport will provide Cargo sous terrain with a solid legal basis and a reliable regulatory framework. CST AG and its more than 80 shareholders are delighted that this privately-financed complete logistics system enjoys such broad parliamentary support. Just like the Council of States had done, the National Council (the lower house of the Swiss parliament) passed the law with a large majority today, in line with the proposal of its specialist committee. The version of the law adopted today does contain a few changes to the version approved by the Council of States, but these differences are expected to be ironed out quickly in the upcoming conciliation process.

The sooner this new law enters into force, the sooner CST will be able to forge ahead with the detailed planning of the first section, from Härkingen-Niederbipp to Zurich, leading up to the construction permit. The final adoption of the law will also kick-start the necessary implementation procedures at the federal and cantonal level. These will include sectoral and cantonal structure plans, as well as the approval process under the direction of the Federal Office of Transport. CST is also in contact with local and cantonal authorities along the first section, in order to work together on the upcoming planning and implementation of the project. Construction of the first section will begin in 2026, and CST will go into operation in 2031. CST is about to ramp up city logistics operations in Zurich and other cities, as this will be an integral part of the CST service offering. CST will work with a large number of logistics companies to provide last-mile goods transport in urban areas.

No recourse to public funds

CST is satisfied that the version of the law passed by the National Council ensures a careful balance of interests between the stakeholders involved. This includes not only the federal, cantonal and local governments, but also landowners, and CST shareholders and investors. CST ensures emission-free and climate-neutral goods delivery; as a sustainable complete logistics system, it will become an important part of everyday Swiss logistics, and radically change the supply chain landscape for trade, industry and the general population. As planned from the outset, this project will not use public funds.

CST is pleased to announce that IWB, the Basel-based company for energy, water, mobility and telecommunications, is now one of CST's more than 80 shareholders, with a seat on the board of directors. This is an exciting time for CST, which is currently also launching its city logistics service, available initially in the cities of Zurich and Basel under the CST brand. CST's city logistics, in line with the rest of the project, was also developed based on the principle of "collaborative innovation", combined with the basic principles of digitization and sustainability. The Chairman of the Board of Directors of CST, Peter Sutterlüti, welcomed today's parliamentary resolution, and stated: "We are grateful for today's decision by the National Council. We couldn't have achieved this milestone for our shareholders and employees without the active support of the Federal Council, of the administration, and now also of the parliament."

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