



Association
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Presentation by Andreas Matthä, CEO of ÖBB-Holding AG (Austrian Federal Railways) in the Association of European Businesses (AEB)

CEO of ÖBB-Holding AG (Austrian Federal Railways) Andreas Matthä met members of the Association of European Businesses (AEB) on 16 November 2017 in Moscow.

Dmitry Cheltsov, Chairman of the AEB Customs and Transport Committee, General Delegate to the IRU Permanent Delegation to Eurasia moderated the event.

"The actively developing cooperation between Austrian Federal Railways and RZD in organizing regular transportations along the railway corridor in the context of the interface with the "One-belt – one road" initiative contributes to the formation of a large Eurasian continental partnership" – stressed Dmitry Cheltsov

Andreas Matthä told about cooperation in the field of railroad infrastructure between Austria and the Russian Federation in the light of the One Belt-One Road initiative (OBOR). This initiative proposes to unite the "Economic belt of the Silk Road" and the "Silk Road of the XXI century". Within the framework of the project, construction of new Eurasian railways and significant modernization of existing transport infrastructure will be carried out.

"ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways) strongly believes in the One Belt – One Road Initiative, and we are actively taking part. We already connect Europe to the maritime Silk Road as we transport goods from harbors like Koper and Trieste all over Europe by rail. We now offer regular cargo trains from China to Europe and, as ÖBB is a very active partner in the project "Extension of Broad-Gauge Line to Vienna", it will be an even stronger partner for the Northern Silk Road in the future" – told Andreas Matthä.

ÖBB is one of 4 partners in a joint project to extend the Broad Gauge Rail Connection from Kosice to Vienna in order to improve capacity and reduce transport time for Eurasian Freight Traffic on rail. The costs for this 400km line are estimated with 6.5 bn. EUR.

AEB CEO Frank Schauff noted that it has become an important tradition to invite heads of leading European companies to share their experience with the AEB members.

"The construction of a railway corridor from China to Austria through Russia will, firstly, help to reduce significantly the time of goods delivery, and secondly, strengthen the ties between Central Europe, Russia and China" – commented Frank Schauff

At the end of the event, representatives of AEB member companies asked their questions and discussed the further prospects of the announced initiative.

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