



Worksheet

ÖBB achieve passenger record

Instructions:

Below you will find a selection of articles from orf.at. Read them and answer the following questions:

1. What are the challenges in freight transport?
2. What goals has ÖBB set itself?

Duration: max. 7 minutes

ÖBB achieve passenger record

orf.at, 26 Jan. 2017

The Austrian Federal Railways (ÖBB) set a new passenger record last year - with four million more passengers than in 2015, according to ÖBB CEO Andreas Matthä at the end of January.

According to Matthä, who spoke of a "very good result", the growth had taken place both in local and long-distance traffic. Freight traffic is also "clearly positive". However, he could not give any concrete results before the annual results press conference.

"Golden times in freight transport are over"

In freight transport, the volumes transported (tonnage) increased in 2016, but not the turnover. "The golden days of freight transport are over. We are under high margin pressure, which we must counter by expanding our business," said Matthä. However, with its subsidiary, the Hungarian freight railway, ÖBB offers an "Austrian-Hungarian hub" and continues to expand its transports. [...]

Internationalisation continues

The internationalisation of rail transport will continue. For a customer company in Upper Austria, you travel all the way to China. Although rail freight transport throughout Europe is under pressure because the raw materials industry is being dismantled and coal-fired power stations are being shut down, container transport is rising sharply due to the high division of labour in the economy. Austrian Rail is an important partner of the Austrian economy, especially for the rail industry.

Investments in interference-free mobile telephony

For the "next generation ÖBB", Matthä named digitisation as an important expansion goal. By the end of 2017, interference-free mobile telephony should be possible on the western route. But investments are also being made on other routes and efforts are being made to increase the density of mobile phone masts. [...]

Open for driverless trains

Autonomous rail travel, i.e. trains without train drivers, is currently still a field of research. Matthä, however, does not want to close his eyes to the fact that driverless trains could be used for freight transport on feeder lines. In principle, however, as a service provider in passenger transport, rail should offer its customers contact persons for human communication, says Matthä.

Source: orf.at (2017): ÖBB achieve passenger record, 26 Jan. 2017, accessed: <http://oesterreich.orf.at/stories/2822176/>, 14 Feb. 2017