

ÖBB Rail Cargo Group (RCG) and Baumann Paletten strengthen the original EUR Euro pallet

- **Partnership agreement signed to strengthen the EUR brand.**
- **The trademark rights of the well-established EUR brand have belonged to RCG since 1961.**
- **Sustainable logistics through reusability and pooling options**

Vienna / Munich 22 March 2023 – Logistics would be unthinkable without the Euro pallet. Estimates suggest that there are about 600 million Euro-pallets in circulation worldwide. The trademark rights to the original Euro-pallet with the EUR symbol have belonged to ÖBB Rail Cargo Group (RCG) since 1961. In order to strengthen this brand and the open exchange pool, the ÖBB freight transport subsidiary and the Munich logistics company Baumann Paletten are working with railway undertakings (RU) and with inspection and pallet organisations that belong to the International Union of Railways (UIC, the Union internationale des chemins de fer) to put the spotlight on the Euro-pallet as a tool in sustainable logistics. This partnership, which will take the form of a brand REFRESH, was sealed with a collaboration agreement on 17.01.2023.

Euro-pallets have become indispensable in logistics

The introduction of the Euro-pallet in 1961 has increasingly revolutionised logistics throughout Europe and beyond. To give just one example, their use has cut the time required to load railway wagons by more than half. The world of logistics is based on their measurements of 800 mm x 1,200 mm x 144mm – from the dimensions of storage spaces and transport systems, right through to loading spaces in HGVs and goods lorries. Their rapid spread meant that an international pooling system could also be established from the start.

The Euro-pallet consists of 100% wood and is produced and tested for quality according to the UIC standard 435-2 ff. All EUR Euro-pallets are heat-treated according to the ISPM 15 standard and can be used for export. The original is easy to spot – the characteristic "EUR" in an oval shape can be found on the right-hand corner block of each individual pallet. Because of its ubiquity and multifunctionality, the EUR Euro-pallet is a reusable and recyclable way of transporting heavy loads.

“Our vision is to be the sustainable logistics backbone of the European economy. In addition to our TRANSFER connections, innovative wagons and the digital assistant MIKE, this also includes the most fundamental element of transport logistics: the Euro-pallet,” emphasises Clemens Först, CEO of ÖBB Rail Cargo Group. “By strengthening the EUR brand in partnership with the Munich family firm Baumann Paletten, we are also increasing the use of environmentally friendly load carriers. And that is completely in line with our vision.”

Alex Rotärmel, CEO of Baumann Paletten: “As a company, Baumann Paletten stands for consistently high quality and for a ready availability of standard load carriers. For us, the open Euro-pallet exchange pool is the linchpin of a well-functioning logistics chain and of sustainable load carrier management. We are proud to be able to be active in shaping the necessary optimisation processes for the benefit of the EUR brand and its users.”



Baumann Paletten

Baumann Paletten was founded in 2018 by passionate logistics experts. More than 8.5 million load carriers are transported every year at eight of its own locations occupying more than 150,000 m² and at twelve partner locations throughout Germany. The Munich family firm offers a complete portfolio of load carriers, load carrier management and complete solutions for efficient and intelligent logistics, all based on economy and sustainability. Good personal relationships and trust form the basis of the company's partnerships with users across trade and industry.

Rail Cargo Group: ÖBB freight transport

As the leading rail logistics specialist in Europe, we shape the industry. 365 days a year – 24 hours a day. From Europe all the way to Asia. We connect people, businesses and markets – every mile of the way. We operate in 18 countries around the world. Our 5,755 logistics professionals of 34 different nationalities enable us to get 463,000 trains safely to their destination every year – that's around 1,270 trains per day. We transport 94 million net tonnes every year with our efficient end-to-end logistics solutions. Our rail share of 28% of the total goods traffic in Austria (preliminary figure) makes us the front-runner in Europe. The operating holding company of the Rail Cargo Group is Rail Cargo Austria AG.

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