

Translation of
the press release of the ÖBBgroup:

ÖBB chairman Schiefer elected president of ARGE Korridor X
Subtitle: ÖBB strengthens competence in international bodies – Schiefer: attractive railway infrastructure to Southeastern Europe of major European importance

(Vienna, April 27th, 2007) – “The transport corridors between the states of the European Union and the neighbouring Southeastern European states must be rapidly developed,” said Arnold Schiefer, chairman of the ÖBB-Infrastruktur Betrieb AG, today after the general assembly of the ARGE Korridor X. Schiefer has been elected president of the ARGE Korridor X at the general assembly held today in Vienna. According to Schiefer “an efficient European railway infrastructure, taking into account this economic region’s growth, is of major European importance, particularly regarding the shift of goods from road to rail.”

Korridor X is important North-South connection for Austria and the EU

The corridor X leads from Salzburg via Villach to Ljubljana, Zagreb, Belgrade, Nis and Skopje to Thessaloniki. Its branches include the traffic routes Graz – Maribor – Zagreb - Budapest – Belgrade, Nis – Sofia, as well as Skopje – Florina. An extension from Sofia to Istanbul is one of the paramount objectives of the national railways closely cooperating in the ARGE Korridor X.

ARGE Korridor X

Task and objective of the ARGE Korridor X, which presently has ten railway companies as members, is the promotion, modernisation and development of the railway infrastructure. Specific aims are journey time reductions, shorter stopovers at borders, the elimination of infrastructure problems on single-track routes and the creation of “One Stop Shops”. “This improvement of cross-border cooperation, the development of transport and traffic infrastructures as well as the simplification of formalities and procedures for border crossings in passenger and goods transport is of major importance for the convergence of our economic regions,” says Schiefer.