

## **Broad alliance for more sidings in the rail network -25.June 2019**

On the initiative of the Association of German Transport Companies (VDV), 37 associations and organisations from industry, trade, logistics and public institutions are working together to strengthen and promote sidings in the German rail network. Today in Berlin, the players involved presented their own siding charter to Enak Ferlemann, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) and Federal Government Commissioner for Rail Transport, and Dr. Torsten Sevecke, State Councillor of the Ministry of Economics, Transport and Innovation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

**Representative of the Association, Joachim Berends, VDV Vice President:** "Politicians, business and the general public are becoming increasingly involved in shifting traffic to the railways. For more climate protection, more efficient mobility and genuine sustainability. Despite the desire for more rail and a federal siding subsidy programme, the number of sidings in Germany is falling continuously. This has a negative impact on rail freight services based on sidings and customer-oriented access points, such as wagonload traffic. In order for these systems to be able to make a contribution to rail traffic growth as well, their access points need to be significantly strengthened and we are working together to achieve this within the framework of this alliance.

**Enak Ferlemann, Federal Government Commissioner for Rail Transport and Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure:** "I am looking forward to the proposals in the Rail Siding Charter. We will take a close look at each and every one of them and - together - carry out a feasibility check. I am particularly pleased that so many players in the industry are taking up this very important topic with the Rail Siding Charter and bringing it to the attention of the public, especially at the present time. In this way, we can use the momentum to restart siding promotion."

**Dr. Torsten Sevecke, State Councillor of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport and Innovation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg:** "Rail freight transport depends on good access to the rail network. The port of Hamburg is the largest railway port in Europe and thus the central starting point and destination for freight traffic, which we want to further strengthen. It is important that there are sidings for loading and unloading freight trains throughout Germany."

Further information on the association alliance and the siding charter can be found at:

[www.gleisanschluss-charta.de](http://www.gleisanschluss-charta.de)