

 **Federal Ministry**
Republic of Austria
Climate Action, Environment,
Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology

Leonore Gewessler
Federal Minister

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Reference number: 2022-0.759.735

Vienna, 30 November 2022

Ms Zakia Khattabi
Minister of Belgium for Climate, Environment,
Sustainable Development and Green Deal

Mr Alain Maron
Minister of the Government of the Brussels-Capital
Region, responsible for Climate Change,
Environment, Energy and Participatory Democracy

Ms Zuhai Demir
Minister of the Flemish Region for Justice and
Enforcement, Energy and Tourism

Ms. Céline Tellier
Minister of the Walloon Region for the Environment,
Nature, Forestry, Rural Affairs and Animal Welfare

Ms. Rositsa Atanasova Karamfilova-Balgova
Minister of Bulgaria of Environment and Water

Mr Marian JUREČKA Minister of the
Czech Republic of the Environment

Mr Davor Filipović
Minister of Croatia of Economy and
Sustainable Development

Ms Lea Wermelin
Minister of Denmark for the
Environment

Ms Maria Ohisalo
Minister of Finland of the Environment and
Climate Change

Mr Christophe Béchu
Minister of France for Ecological Transition and
Territorial Cohesion

Mr Kostas Skrekas
Minister of Greece of Environment and Energy

Mr Istvan Nagy Dr.
Minister of Hungary Minister of Agriculture

Mr Gilberto Pichetto Fratin
Minister of Italy of environment and energy security

Mr Simonas Gentvilas
Minister of Lithuania of Environment

Ms Joëlle Welfring
Minister of Luxembourg for the Environment, Climate
and Sustainable Development

Ms Christianne Van der Wal-Zeggelink
Minister of Netherlands for Nature and Nitrogen Policy

Ms Anna Moskwa
Minister of Poland of Climate and Environment

Mr Barna Tánczos
Minister of Romania of Environment, Waters and Forests

Mr Uroš Brežan
Minister of Slovenia for the Environment and
Spatial Planning

Mr Ján Budaľ
Minister of Slovakia of Environment

Dear Ministers,

Austria is committed to furthering its ambitions concerning climate and achieving both national and European climate targets. In this regard, the transport sector still poses an exceptional challenge for Austria. The Austrian Mobility Masterplan includes a multitude of measures, one of which being the reinforcement of the shift from road to rail for freight transport. The Austrian Waste Management Act 2002 already includes provisions to make this modal shift in the sector of waste transport a reality. From January 1, 2023 onwards, waste transports with a total weight of more than 10 tons and a transporting distance of more than 300 km within Austria by road are affected by this and are obliged to use rail. There are also several legally defined exemptions to this provision, one of which also stipulates that this obligation does not apply if - with regard to the pollutant or greenhouse gas potential - a means of transport equivalent to rail is used.

In 2023, this obligation will only affect a smaller number of cross-border transports, especially because only routes within Austria or Austrian loading points are taken into account.

The transporters affected are supported by the platform "aufschiene.gv.at" set up by my Ministry. This platform offers the following services:

- In advance, it can be determined in good time whether one is affected by the legal regulation. This functionality is already in service now and can be used by any interested party.
- Offers for rail transports - regardless of whether there is an obligation - can be obtained quickly and in a targeted manner.
- If there is insufficient capacity despite the obligation or if the transport cannot actually be carried out for other justified reasons, the platform issues a confirmation for this waste transport by road. This confirmation must be carried for control purposes.

If use of the full service is desired, you must be registered or logged in to the business service portal (usp.gv.at). Companies not established in Austria should contact aufschiene@bmk.gv.at using the subject "USP registration". We will assist with the registration process.

I hope for your support in anchoring both climate protection and the shift of freight transport from road to rail—also at a Union level—in the best way possible, especially with regard to cross-border shipments of waste.

I will be happy to keep you informed about our current experiences and future endeavors.

Yours sincerely,



Leonore Gewessler