

## Historic agreement secures continued rail ferry service to Germany

**Stena Line today signed a historic agreement with the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket) that secures the continued operation of rail ferry services between Sweden and Germany. The agreement, the first of its kind, ensures that traffic on the Trelleborg–Rostock route can continue until 31 December 2031.**

The agreement was signed during a press conference at the Port of Trelleborg by Elisabeth Lönne, Chief Commercial Officer at Stena Line, and Roberto Maiorana, Director-General of the Swedish Transport Administration.

“Stena Line is very pleased that the conditions are now in place for our operation on the Trelleborg–Rostock route to continue. We view our role in the transport system in general, and in the vital rail connection to continental Europe provided by our ferries in particular, with both pride and great responsibility,” says Elisabeth Lönne.

“I am pleased and proud that we have reached this agreement. This has been a priority for us, and we are now securing rail ferry services between Sweden and Germany for the years ahead,” says Roberto Maiorana, Director-General of the Swedish Transport Administration.

He continues:

“Rail ferries have declined significantly over the past 20 years due to weak economic viability. Since the opening of the Öresund Bridge, the majority of freight trains to and from continental Europe have crossed the Öresund link rather than travelling by ferry. However, the ferries remain necessary, which is why the Swedish state, through the Swedish Transport Administration, is now stepping in to secure continued operations.”

Stena Line has operated the Trelleborg–Rostock route with the two rail ferries M/S Skåne and M/S Mecklenburg-Vorpommern since 1998. Today, it is Sweden’s only regular rail ferry service and one of only a limited number of rail ferry operations worldwide.

### Strengthening Sweden’s transport system and national defence capability

In a deteriorating security environment, transport infrastructure plays a crucial role. The continued operation of Stena Line’s rail ferries enables ongoing military mobility for both the Swedish Armed Forces and NATO, while ensuring Sweden’s ability to provide and receive Host Nation Support.

“Through rail ferry services, we can maintain NATO’s fundamental requirement for a robust transport system that supports national resilience. The transport system must function in peacetime, crisis and war – both for domestic traffic and for transport to and from Sweden,” says Roberto Maiorana.

Germany is Sweden’s largest trading partner, and the rail ferries enable transports that cannot pass via the Öresund route due to weight and width restrictions on Danish and

German rail infrastructure. As the Öresund Bridge is the only fixed railway connection to continental Europe, the rail ferries also serve as a strategic backup solution in the event of prolonged disruptions.

“For many years, this route has formed an important part of Sweden’s exports to and imports from one of our most important trading partners, Germany, where the ability to transport freight by rail plays a crucial role,” concludes Elisabeth Lönne of Stena Line.

**For further information:**

**Stena Line**

Johan Live, PR & Media Manager

+46 768 68 11 37

[press@stenaline.com](mailto:press@stenaline.com)

*Stena Line is one of Europe's leading ferry companies with approximately 40 vessels and 19 routes in Northern Europe and the Mediterranean, operating 35,000 sailings each year. Stena Line is an important part of the European logistics network and develops new intermodal freight solutions by combining transport by rail, road, and sea. Stena Line also plays an important role in tourism in Europe with its extensive passenger operations. The company is family-owned, was founded in 1962 and is headquartered in Gothenburg. Stena Line has 8,750 employees and an annual turnover of 20.2 billion SEK.*