

Press release

The Swiss national government supports the continuation of the RAIpin Rolling Highway until 2026

Generally pleased RAIpin AG is taking note of today's decision by the Federal Council to continue the Rolling Highway between Freiburg (D) and Novara (I) beyond 2023. This decision recognizes the importance of the Rolling Highway for the modal shift of approximately 80'000 HGVs per year and for climate protection. However, based on the consultation carried out in winter 2021/22 and the majority of approving feedbacks, RAIpin assumed continued operation until 2028 and the cessation of operations at the end of 2028 with financial requirements of around 100 million Swiss francs. This solution was prepared in close consultation with the Federal Office of Transport (FOT) and resulted in the best cost/benefit ratio with the lowest special depreciation while avoiding new investments. This consultation variant would also leave enough time to find flanking measures for a follow-on solution in unaccompanied combined transport.

With the cessation of operations as per 2026 now proposed by the Federal Council, the threat of a partial shift back to the roads of the lorries currently transported in an environmentally friendly manner by the Rolling Highway increases, as the planned shift of lorry transports to unaccompanied combined transport cannot be achieved in such a short period of time. After all, the train services offered by RAIpin reduce more than 5 kilometers of lorries convoy on the heavily congested Swiss road network on a daily basis. The adopted financial framework of 64 million Swiss francs will probably not be sufficient due to higher special depreciation.

The final decision on the duration of the continuation of the Rolling Highway lies with the Swiss Parliament. In its last consultation on the modal shift in March 2022, the majority of the National Council welcomed the sensible continuation until 2028. RAIpin supports this position and expects the National Council and the Council of States to deal with the proposal in good time so that the contracts for 2024 and the following years can be negotiated with suppliers and the continued operation after 2023 can be secured.

Olten, 30 September 2022

RAIpin AG at a glance

Headquartered in Olten, RAIpin AG operates the Rolling Highway (Rola) between Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, and Novara, Italy. Its service encompasses over 100,000 opportunities for lorries to transfer from road to rail each year. Drivers embark their vehicles onto low-floor waggons at the terminals and accompany their loads safely in a sleeping car. RAIpin's Rolling Highway service makes a significant contribution to the modal shifting of traffic from road to rail and to safeguarding the sensitive Alpine region.

The shareholders of RAIpin are BLS AG, Hupac SA and SBB AG.

Contact:

Ludwig Näf, CEO RAIpin AG, ludwig.naef@ralpin.com, +41 58 822 88 88