



Media release

Glacier Express: reason for derailment determined

Brig, 30 July 2010 – The Matterhorn Gotthard Bahn (MGBahn) has acknowledged the result of the investigation into the Glacier Express accident and is distraught that human error led to the accident. The company bears the responsibility for the consequences of the accident. MGBahn management would like to take this opportunity to once again express its profound sympathy with those who were injured and its deepest condolences to the victim's next of kin.

The investigating authorities have determined that the train driver was travelling at excessive speed at the time of the accident, which led to the derailment. "We deeply regret that human error led to this serious accident, and that so many people suffered pain and distress as a result. Our thoughts are above all with those who were injured and the next of kin of the woman who lost her life," said Jean-Pierre Schmid, Chairman of the Board of Directors of MGBahn. Hans-Rudolf Mooser, Chief Executive Officer, made the following comment on the investigation report: "We bear the responsibility towards all those affected by this accident and will continue to do everything in our power to atone for the damage caused wherever possible. We are at the same time relieved that the investigations have already been concluded, thus bringing the uncertainty and speculation to an end."

Train driver involved receiving counselling

MGBahn employs 92 train drivers, who provide reliable service every day. The driver of the derailed Glacier Express train has been employed with MGBahn as a train driver for more than eight years. On the section of track in question, the maximum speed is 35km/h; after the curve, on the following straight section of track the train can accelerate to a maximum speed of 55km/h. On all sections of track, the train drivers may not under any circumstances exceed the permitted maximum speeds. MGBahn has clear regulations governing the instruction and further training of train drivers, and this is conducted in accordance with the high Swiss standards. In addition to the training and annual schooling in theory and practice, they are submitted to a test and a medical examination every five years. The assessment of the responsibility of the train driver lies with the investigating authorities. MGBahn will also analyse the incident itself in detail as soon as the investigation report is available.

The train driver concerned is suffering from shock and is receiving specialist care. Despite his serious error, MGBahn is standing by him and will support him in dealing with this tragic accident. MGBahn management have been in contact with him since the incident, and he is receiving psychological and legal support.

Injured persons and next of kin are receiving support

Since the incident, MGBahn management have met with all the injured persons who are able to receive visits, and have been able to meet in person with the next of kin of the woman who

died. It was of great importance to MGBahn's management to express their regret and sympathy to those affected in person, and to apologise to them. They remain in regular contact with them to find out about their condition, and will do their utmost to offer them the best possible support in this difficult situation.

MGBahn would like to thank all those who have shown great commitment in helping to deal with this incident. Once the section of track had been released and comprehensive safety checks carried out, train service was resumed on Sunday, 25 July 2010. Since then, all trains have been running on schedule and public service has been provided. Safety is completely ensured on the entire track of the Glacier Express.