



# PRESS RELEASE

## **New GLS company starts in Croatia**

**Amsterdam, 1 August 2013. Europe-wide parcel service provider, GLS, has expanded its network in Eastern Europe. GLS Croatia commences operations today – with nationwide service and international connections.**

One month after Croatia joined the EU, GLS is now present across the country with its own network. The company will initially span four locations in Zagreb, Rijeka, Split and Osijek, which were set up since the company's founding in late May. The GLS Group had previously serviced Croatia as part of a co-operation with a network partner.

“We place great emphasis on being able to offer our international customers in the Eastern EU markets short delivery times and comprehensive services,” says Rico Back, CEO of the GLS Group. “Establishing our own companies has proven to be successful here.” GLS sees Croatia as a growth market because, among other things, the country's economy will benefit from EU membership. “As soon as customs borders are broken down, the natural demand for just-in-time deliveries rises, so it's important to be present locally,” emphasises Back. Gergely Farkas, Managing Director GLS Europe East, will manage the new GLS subsidiary.

### **Good network, short delivery times**

The depot near Zagreb (Popovec) also serves as a national distribution centre – equipped with modern security technology and an automatic parcel sorting system in accordance with GLS standards. “Right from the start, we'll be delivering national parcels in Croatia with a standard delivery time of 24 hours,” Gergely Farkas explains. “Many additional services, such as cash on delivery and notifying private recipients of imminent deliveries, are also available from the outset.”

International transports are routed through Zagreb, too. Daily services connect Croatia in a westerly direction with Ljubljana (Slovenia), Ansfelden (Austria) and GLS' European hub in Neuenstein (Germany), while fast connections to Eastern Europe are made via GLS' hub in Budapest (Hungary). From Croatia, GLS delivers to countries like Hungary and Slovenia with standard times of 24 to 48 hours. Just



as quickly, parcels from these countries arrive in Croatia. From the European hub in Neuenstein imported parcels from Croatia are generally delivered within 72 hours.

### **Successful start-ups in Eastern Europe**

GLS Croatia is already the fourth start-up company by GLS in this region, following those in Slovakia (2004), the Czech Republic (2005) and Romania (2007). GLS has been present in Hungary with its own company since 1999, and in Slovenia since 2000. Rico Back concludes: "Founding our own company in Croatia is part of our networking strategy. Europe is our core market, and the EU countries are of course the main focus here."

### ***The GLS Group in Europe***

GLS, General Logistics Systems B.V. (headquartered in Amsterdam), realises reliable, high-quality parcel services for 220,000 customers in Europe, complemented by logistics and express services. "Quality leader in European parcel logistics" is GLS' guiding principle. In this context, sustainability is emphasized at GLS: its Europe-wide Think Green Initiative bundles activities aimed at protecting the environment. Through wholly owned and partner companies, the Group provides a network coverage of 37 European states and is globally connected via contractual agreements. 37 central transshipment points and 667 depots are at GLS' disposal. With its ground based network GLS is one of the leading parcel service providers in Europe. About 14,000 employees handle 380 million parcels per year. Every day around 18,000 vehicles are on route for GLS. In the financial year 2012/13 GLS achieved revenues of 1.84 billion euros.