



Press Release

GLS celebrates 20 years, has so far distributed 200 million parcels worth CZK 500 billion

Prague, 27 March 2025 – On 1 April, the transport company GLS celebrates 20 years since the start of operations in the Czech Republic. Throughout its existence, GLS has delivered almost 200 million parcels worth over half a trillion crowns. 20 years of existence

GLS in numbers:

- **200 million delivered parcels worth CZK 500 billion**
- **50 daily international connections, over 800 vans and more than 100 trucks with the GLS logo**
- **More than 1000 own boxes, in total GLS delivers almost 5000 pick-up points to the network**
- **60 thousand fulfilled children's wishes**

The GLS delivery company started operations in the Czech Republic on April 1, 2005. *"In the first year of operation, we delivered 345 thousand packages. We can now do this in less than two days. In 20 years, parcel transport has changed from an exceptionally used additional service to the then monopoly state carrier into a service that households and e-shops use practically daily,"* recalls Petr Pěcha, Director of GLS in the Czech Republic.

What will the transport look like in the coming years?

Technology has significantly transformed the world of transport in the last 20 years, and the rapid rise of AI will continue to change and simplify it in the coming years. *"Robots, drones and virtual assistants will be a common part of the operation of delivery companies. Greater and greater consideration will also be given to the environmental friendliness of transport – logistics will play an even greater role than before, so that couriers drive as few kilometres as possible. In the midst of it all, the most important thing will be: a satisfied client. A positive everyday experience with a delivery service will be what will determine the success and failure of any e-commerce company,"* adds Petr Pěcha.

Interest in transport services is growing every year, last year GLS transported 15% of parcels than the year before. In total, in 20 years of activity, the company has transported almost 200 million parcels, the value of the transported goods has exceeded half a trillion CZK, i.e. about a quarter of the annual budget of the Czech Republic.

Of course, with the growth in demand for transported goods, the logistical demands of transport are also increasing. For example, GLS now uses 50 daily international connections, which cover not only the purchases of Czechs abroad, but also the successful expansion of Czech e-shops to foreign markets. From the then 8 depots, GLS now serves the Czech Republic in 30 modern depots. Initially, GLS used 33 vans and 12 trucks for distribution. Now in the normal season, it uses more than 800 vans and over 100 trucks. The theme of recent



years has been even greater optimisation of transport, which, together with the use of more environmentally friendly vehicles, leads to a reduction in the carbon footprint.

This is also helped by the rapid growth of the network of lockers, which have become the most popular mode of transport in recent years. *"It is the change in the behaviour of consumers, who have already refused to queue at the post office, that is the biggest revolution that has taken place in the last 20 years,"* believes GLS Director Petr Pěcha.

The methods of payment for goods are also changing, but cash on delivery remains popular. GLS has collected over 150 billion crowns in cash on delivery in 20 years of activity. Despite the expected decline from this service for many years, this sum is growing every year, last year it exceeded 13 billion.

Since the beginning of its activities, GLS has also been strongly involved in the social field. *"Among other things, in 14 years of cooperation with the Donate a Toy organization, we have helped fulfill almost 60 thousand wishes and transported 30 tons of gifts free of charge. As part of the ThinkGreen campaign, we have planted 2,000 long-lived trees in the open countryside of the Czech Republic since 2013,"* concludes Petr Pěcha, adding that GLS is also involved as a general partner in the increasingly popular Bike to Work event.

About GLS Group

The GLS Group is a leading provider of international parcel transport. The company provides its customers across 40 countries with reliable and quality parcel services, complemented by freight and express services. With an extensive international network and strong local market knowledge, customers can expect a seamless, flexible and personal service across Europe and beyond. GLS also operates through wholly-owned subsidiaries in Canada and on the West Coast of the USA. The GLS network consists of 120 central and regional transshipment points and 1,600 depots, which use around 37,000 vans and 6,500 freight wagons. GLS employs around 23,000 people. In 2023/24, GLS achieved a record turnover of €5.6 billion and delivered 905 million parcels despite global challenges.