



Swedish rail incumbent SJ is repeatedly smearing MTR Nordic as a “Chinese state company”.

Brussels, 4th May 2018.

ALLRAIL is disturbed to learn that senior figures at the Swedish state-owned company SJ are repeatedly smearing our member MTR Nordic.

Recently, SJ’s Senior VP Communication, Malou Sjörin, criticised MTR Nordic on social media, labelling it a “*Chinese state company*” while SJ is a “*Swedish company*”¹.

Then, at its Annual General Meeting, SJ’s Board Chairman Jan Sundling claimed MTR Nordic’s trains are being “operated by the Chinese government”. This week, SJ’s press officer Niclas Härenstam repeated the same false accusation on Swedish radio.

ALLRAIL condemns this deliberate ‘dog whistle’ tactic which is intended to stoke nationalist prejudice and turn public opinion against MTR.

In reality, the truth is well known to SJ:

- MTR Nordic is a subsidiary of Hong Kong’s MTR Corporation. Listed on the stock exchange, MTR was established decades ago during UK sovereignty of Hong Kong.
- Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region with rule of law- that includes all the regulations regarding independence from government control.

Fact: MTR Nordic is a company registered in Sweden, just like SJ. Its entry into the Swedish market reduced prices, attracted new passengers to rail **& created new jobs.**

ALLRAIL’s Secretary General Nick Brooks says: “EU incumbents are also expanding to Asia. **A subsidiary of state-owned RATP from France runs the trams... in Hong Kong!**”

Brooks states further: “**We would never expect such populist bigotry from a state-owned company in Sweden, a country with a reputation for being open-minded**”.

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¹ <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6392007485909196800/>