

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 22, 2015 – Europe-wide

Weekend of Action to put European rail #backontrack

In response to continued cuts to the cross-border rail services in Europe – including night train routes such as **Berlin–Brussels–Paris**, **Copenhagen–Prague** and **Barcelona–Milan** – continent-wide actions over the weekend aimed to kick-start a turnaround in transport policy.

At Berlin's Hauptbahnhof, activists set out folding beds with cards stamped with the names of places no longer accessible by rail. The action was timed to coincide with the arrival of the first relaunched Russian Railways service from Moscow to Paris, reconnecting Berlin and Paris overnight albeit on a greatly reduced schedule compared with the daily City Night Line service scrapped in December 2014.



Parallel actions took place in Basel, Bern, Copenhagen, Dortmund, Geneva, Hamburg, Madrid, Odense (DK), Paris and Vienna over the weekend ending Sunday 21 June. Events took place in a total of 11 cities in 6 different countries.



Berlin

In addition to the loss of CNL 450/451 between Berlin and Paris, recent cancellations include Berlin–Vienna (direct daytime train), almost all international trains in the Baltic States, Berlin–Cracow (day and overnight trains), Paris–Madrid and Bucharest–Sofia (overnight trains), and all overnight services to/from Brussels, a city that once boasted direct

links with Berlin, Milan, Moscow, Vienna and Warsaw and will lose its last remaining long-distance EuroCity route to Switzerland in 2016.

The [Back on Track](#) network calls for an immediate end to these cuts and the launch of an expansion programme to provide high quality international rail services between all major European cities and regions. This requires political will at both the national and the European level to promote the greenest means of long-distance transport.

“Anyone who takes the environment seriously should not allow the increasing degradation of cross-border rail links. This forces people to switch to flying. Night trains are the most comfortable and most environmentally friendly way to travel over long distances across Europe,” Bernhard Knierim from the Back on Track network said.



Planes emit 15 times more CO₂ per passenger-kilometer than trains. Since these emissions occur at altitude, their negative effects on the atmosphere could be up to 50 times worse.

“Train travel is the greenest and most civilised way to travel. Yet within Europe, and especially between European countries, it gets harder and harder as services are cut. There are ways to make cross-border rail appealing and profitable. I am exasperated the railway companies cannot see this,” fellow campaigner Jon Worth said.

-ENDS-

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Further reading:

The Guardian, [End of the line for Europe's iconic night trains?](#)

The Independent, [End of the line: Paris-Berlin night train makes its final journey](#)

Image library: <https://www.flickr.com/groups/2866539@N23/pool/>

Back on Track is a European network campaigning for better international passenger trains in Europe. Read about our aims [here](#) and sign the petition [here](#).



Bern

Back on Track actions:

19-6	GENÈVE-CORNAVIN	07:00
19-6	MADRID CHAMARTÍN	11:00
19-6	BERLIN HBF	19:30
20-6	WIEN HBF	08:00
20-6	PARIS EST	18:30
20-6	DORTMUND HBF	18:45
20-6	KØBENHAVN H	18:45
20-6	ODENSE	19:00
20-6	BASEL SBB	19:00
21-6	HAMBURG-ALTONA	09:00
21-6	BERN BAHNHOF	11:00



Bern