

Alternatives to airplanes in Europe are trains, by Poul Kattler, Denmark



Why night trains?

- Where there are distances greater than 4 hours of day trains (including high-speed trains)
- Distances of 600 - 1,500 km, perhaps longer
- Where there are many air journeys today
- It takes popularly 1½ hours; namely 1 hour for good night beer and fall asleep and ½ hour to wake up with the coffee
- Denmark is too far away to make day trips by train really useful

High speed trains cannot stand alone



- It is extremely expensive (investment per km)
- It takes a long time to build
- It is only economically viable between large population concentrations

However night trains



- Running on existing rails
- Material can be purchased "from the shelf"
- Suitable for the outer edges of Europe
- Saves often a hotel overnight

More funds than the existing ones



- TEN-T is for infrastructure projects that bind Europe together
- Climate should be included in the way funds are distributed
- But there is not too much money in that system
- CO2 tax from flight must be used to expand the railways

What does it take to get night trains?

- Best: Uniform taxation (fuel and VAT)
- Public demanded international night trains (ie subsidies) between capitals and big cities until subsidies are no longer required ("a train fund")
- European pool of sleeping and couchette cars (leasing)
- With a stock pool, many lines could start without subsidies
- A few lines can run profitably without any sort of subsidies, probably from Copenhagen...

Capacity and changed focus

- The operators see each other as competitors and see international trains as foreign birds
- Regional and Intercity trains fill up the rails
- Especially the rush hour traffic (morning hours) takes up a lot of space when night trains enter the towns
- Need: More capacity on the rails and changed mindset of the operators

Both sleeping, couchette and seated



60.000 signatures for a "Danish" night train



In November 2018 we handed over the first 42.000 in Copenhagen

European activism!



Berlin, December 2016



December 2018 in Berlin



January 2019 in Brussels



December 2018 in Poland

- www.facebook.com/bevarnattog
- baeredygtigtrafik.dk
- www.back-on-track.eu

Thank you for your
attention

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