

Tuesday 8.12. 2020

**Press release from Back-on-Track, European network to promote cross-border and night trains**

## Night trains: Much more, much wider

The today's press conference on enhanced cooperation between DB (Germany), ÖBB (Austria), SBB (Switzerland) and SNCF (France) introduced an expansion of ÖBB's NightJet network of night trains, showing the right way forward when it comes to alternatives to flying in Europe. Modern night trains can replace many flights within the range of 500 to 1.500 km, as passengers can sleep while being transported in an environmentally friendly way. Since its founding in 2015, Back on Track has advocated for this transport solution: Night trains are necessary elements in a 24-hour European train network.

Despite our joy at the good intentions and strong ambitions demonstrated at today's press conference, there is a strong need for the initiative to grow in volume and spread to more regions in Europe.

The cooperation must not be exclusive to those who arranged the press conference. Partners who want to contribute to the future network of night trains must have the option to do so. The EU as a supranational actor can contribute with investments and coordination; but we also call for the participation of railway operators from smaller states, and of private operators who have shown the ability and willingness to introduce their own night train routes.

The regions that also need to be included in concrete plans for new night train services are:

- The Iberian Peninsula; with Lisbon, Madrid and Barcelona
- Scandinavia; with Copenhagen, Stockholm and Oslo
- Eastern Europe; with Belgrade, Budapest and Bucharest

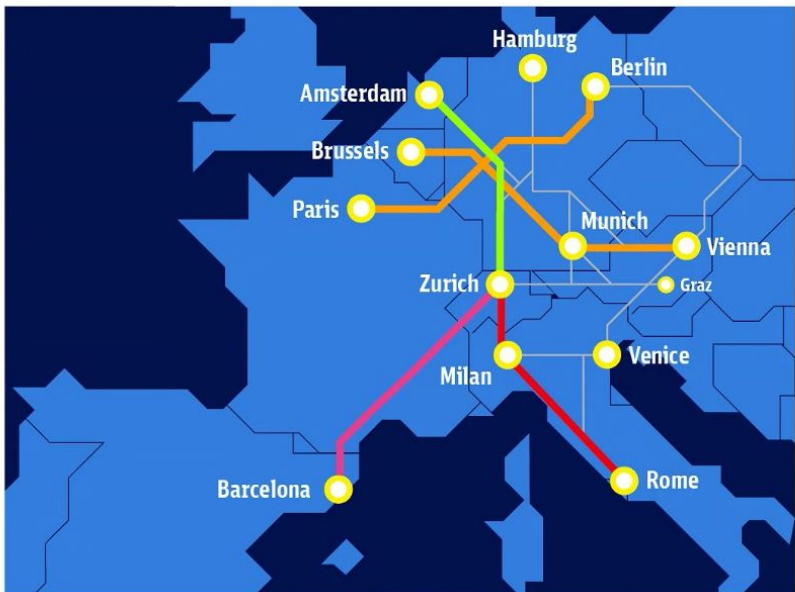
We very much hope that tomorrow's announcement by the European Commission on "Green Mobility" will show that the EU is a worthy and dedicated partner in the necessary development of Europe's railways and night trains as a follow-up to what was presented today.

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Watch the press conference here (German): <https://www.bmvi.de/DE/Home/home.html>  
This is the last slide from the presentation today:



**TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE**  
**Joint Statement to expand Night Train services in Europe**

As part of the overall efforts within the European Union to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and support sustainable travel, night trains can form an ideal supplement for cross border services.

DB, ÖBB, SBB and SNCF have joint forces to support the development of further night train services in Europe.

We believe, that:

- Developing night trains helps to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and supports the Paris Agreement of 2015 on climate protection
- Night trains can become a key element of a sustainable and environmentally friendly mobility and its integration in a global daily European rail network is important
- Cross-border night train services are operationally challenging and require a joint effort and political support

DB, ÖBB, SBB and SNCF have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to set the framework for a future collaboration for night train services.

**The parties plan to offer new night trains such as**

- December 2021: **Vienna-Munich-Paris and Zurich-Amsterdam**
- December 2023: **Vienna/Berlin-Brussels/Paris**
- December 2024: **Zürich-Barcelona**

Our efforts will be part of a larger scheme to work towards better international services within Europe.

