



Back-on-Track Europe a.i.s.b.l.

European network to promote cross-border and night trains
www.back-on-track.eu

Activity Report 2025

1. Organisational:

On the European level:

On 29 April 2024 the European Network which became the AISBL adopted the Statutes (<https://back-on-track.eu/statutes/>). It then took until 20 December 2024 to secure an appointment with a notary in Belgium.



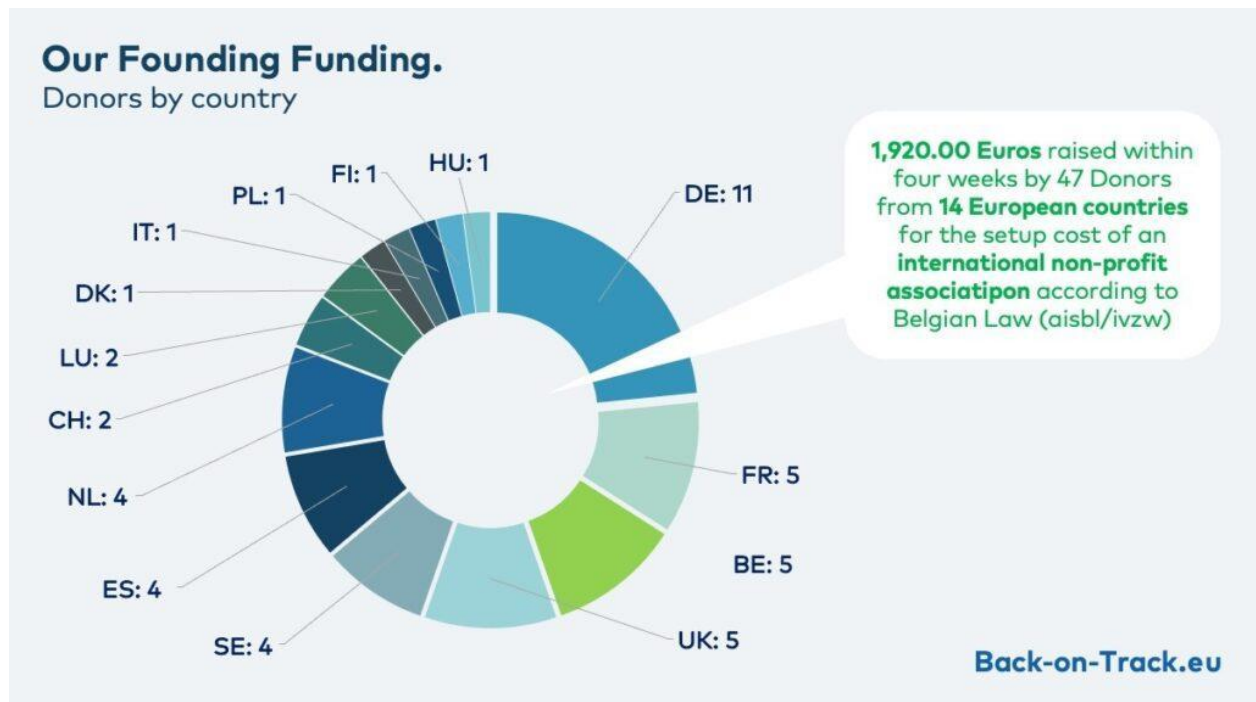
For this appointment, Peter Bayens (Back-on-Track Belgium), Trevor Garrod (European Rail Campaign UK), Juri Maier (Back-on-Track Germany) and Sibyll Trenck-German (Back-on-Track Switzerland) travelled to Bruges to listen to the reading of the Statutes.

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Web: www.back-on-track.eu **E-mail:** board@back-on-track.eu

Board: G. Antoniazzi (vice chair), P. Bayens (treasurer), P. Kattler (deputy chair), J. Maier (chair), E. Nováček (secretary)
International Non-Profit Organisation under Belgian law. Register No. 1023884686

The cost of the notary and the registration fees was covered by a donation campaign (in 2024), coordinated by the German group, which achieved to secure funds from all over Europe.



First AGM:

The first formal General Meeting of AISBL Back-on-Track, Europe, took place on-line on 2025-11-04 concluding to hold an Annual General Meeting with the election of Board of Directors of Back-on-Track Europe one month later on 2025-12-04, electing the first regular Board of Directors consisting of:



(from left to right:)

Juri Maier (DE, chair), Giovanni Antoniazzi (IT, vice chair), Peter Bayens (BE, treasurer), Poul Kattler (DK, deputy chair), Elizabeth Nováček (CZ, secretary).

Registration Formalities:

The registration process for the new AISBL of Back-on-Track moved slowly ahead, one hindrance after each other was removed. A year after registration we finally had access to a bank account.

On the Member level:

Back-on-Track country groups started the year as increasingly established and in working mode.

2. Advocacy:

General Position Paper:

The advocacy work related to the newly elected European Parliament (in May) motivated us to revise the Back-on-Track Position Paper. Various people helped us at the beginning of the year to review the B-o-T advocacy campaign paper, particularly examining the mechanisms for establishing PSOs.

In April 2025 it was announced in Switzerland that the CO2 Law could bring money to support a night train from Basel to Copenhagen. That could have been an example of a cross-border PSO arrangement. Unfortunately, by the end of the year – after tickets were sold – political right wing in Bern succeeded to stop the support, and SBB cancelled the train.

Position on High-Speed Rail:

An EC policy paper on high-speed rail was presented in a draft, B-o-T was reacting to the “Have your Say” call, calling for more attention to night trains, and not only to rely on high-speed development.

Position on Passenger Rights:

EC launched a call for evidence on a revision to Rail Passenger Rights – but nothing was presented in 2025. Night Trains have never been treated well by European passenger rights.

Contacts on the European Level:

An advocacy working group delegation met in October with DG MOVE and members of European Parliament in Brussels. Our demands were presented, and new contacts were established.

3. Research & Publications:

Target Network 2032:

Our activities included developing a proposal for an EU-initiated target network for night trains, which nicely tied up with a Back-on-Track project group working to establish a database of which 150 new routes should be established in addition to already running night trains.

Night Train Map

In this year Back-on-Track Europe published an updated version of the printed and interactive online versions of our popular night train map.

Open Night Train Database

Work on the shared night train database continued.

4. Events:

Conference 2025 in September 2025:

Preparations for the B-o-T conference in Berlin were well on track during the summertime. A successful Back-on-Track conference in Berlin took place with approx. 70 physical participants and also many on-line participants.

Pyjama Party on 12.12.2025

Another trans-European Pyjama Party on 12.12.2025 mobilised a record number of activists all over Europe at 12 stations for which the Back-on-Track action working group mobilized in cooperation with Stay Grounded.

Protest Actions:

As the French government withdrew after only two years its subsidy for night trains from Paris to Vienna and Berlin. Large protests were established within our Network. **75,000 signatures were collected within days after the announcement.** The demand was obviously there - and encouraged the night train operator European Sleeper later in 2025 to announce that they would take over the route and run one train every second night (following a suggestion from B-o-T to European Sleeper to explore the economic viability of this line).

5. Statistics:

Membership:

On 31st December 2025 our network consists of

- approx. 2.200 contacts.
- approx. 900 registered activists
- 200 Members on the Google members list
- approx. 5 members on the EU Level

Social Media Outreach:

On 31st December 2025 we had followers on these actively used networks.

	31.12.2025
Facebook:	4.896
LinkedIn:	3.497
Instagram:	2.504
Bluesky:	1.450