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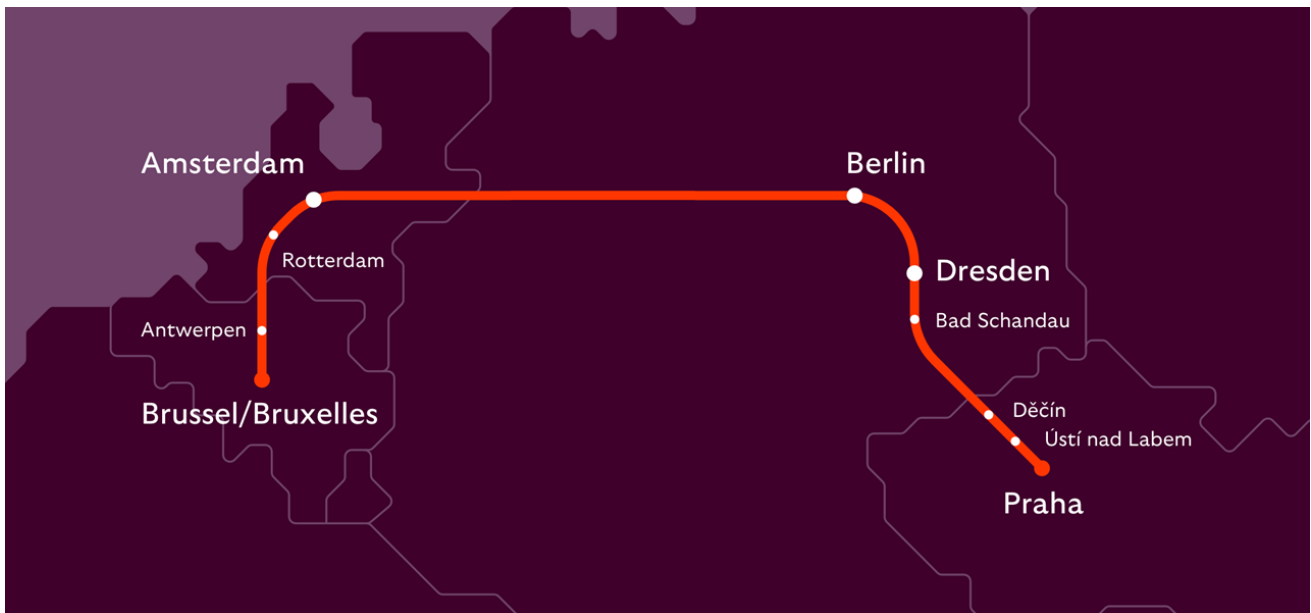
## EUROPEAN SLEEPER EXPANDS INTO THE CZECH REPUBLIC STARTING WITH ITS INAUGURAL RIDE TO PRAGUE ON 25 MARCH 2024

### BRUSSELS – AMSTERDAM – BERLIN – DRESDEN – PRAGUE

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Ten months after the first ride from Brussels to Berlin, European Sleeper introduces new stops in Dresden, Bad Schandau, and Prague. The train will then connect four countries and four European capitals. Even Paris and London are well connected with a single transfer in Brussels.

The route extension will be unveiled with a special event on 25 March 2024, where press, trade, and partners can board the train in Brussels and arrive in Prague the next day. On 26 March the official launch will be celebrated in Prague around the very first departure to Amsterdam and Brussels. The event is organised in collaboration with, Prague City Tourism, CzechTourism, visit.brussels, Visit Dresden, and České dráhy.



The Dutch-Belgian night train operator European Sleeper is part of the movement that put night trains in Europe back on the map. Trains offer an attractive alternative to other modes of transportation and produce up to 28 times less greenhouse emissions than planes, for example. Another significant benefit of night trains is their ability to transform lengthy distances into a

mere overnight journey, allowing passengers to travel efficiently as they sleep.

“We are truly thrilled to be launching the new route to Prague less than a year after launching our first direct service from Brussels to Berlin”, said **Elmer van Buuren**, Co-Founder, of European Sleeper. “Our goal is to add a new route each year so we can continue to contribute to a more integrated and sustainable European transportation network and we’re proud to offer these incredible new destinations to travellers in Europe and beyond”.

The official press event is scheduled for 16:00 on Tuesday, 26 March 2024, at Fantova budova, Prague Central Station. It will include guests coming from Brussels, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the Saxon region, and the Czech Republic. Also, Czech tourism and transportation officials will be present including Czech Minister of Transport Martin Kupka, and Czech Minister for European Affairs, Martin Dvořák.

**Martin Kupka**, the Czech Minister of Transport commented: “Night trains are now making a comeback all over Europe and I am very glad that the Czech Republic is not left behind. It is an environmentally friendly alternative to air transport, which confirms that rail will play an increasingly important role in the future. For us, this is another signal that we urgently need not only to complete the modernization of existing rail corridors, but also to speed up the preparation and construction of high-speed lines.”

**Martin Dvořák**, the Czech Minister for European Affairs added: “The opening of the new route of the European Sleeper night train is another step to strengthen the connection between EU countries and support sustainable transport in Europe. This project not only simplifies travel between Brussels and Prague, but also reflects our common European values and the drive for a greener and more connected continent. I am very pleased to be part of this initiative, which proves that collaboration and innovation can lead to real solutions in the field of mobility and sustainability.”

“The history of railway transportation in the Czech Republic dates back to the 1820s. Currently, it serves us and has enormous potential for the future. With the added value of this new line, we improve our support of tourism in the regions. The night train which includes a bike carriage will also stop, in Děčín and Ústí nad Labem. Cyclists and hiking enthusiasts don’t have to travel to Prague, instead, they can enjoy, for example, a cycling trip on the Elbe Cycle Path or a hiking adventure along the Czech Switzerland Crest Trail, with its gateway being the city of Děčín,” summarizes **František Reismüller**, Director of the Czech Tourism Authority – CzechTourism.

**Patrick Bontinck**, CEO of visit.brussels said: “By train, Brussels is less than two hours from London, Paris, Amsterdam and Cologne. Accessible train travel is required to reinforce our ambitions as a sustainable destination. Therefore, the extension of our night train services is key. Thanks to European Sleeper, Brussels is connected to an increasing number of cities across

Europe. Not only does this help us to attract more visitors, it contributes to Brussels' role as a leading sustainable destination.”

**Michal Krapinec**, CEO of ČD stated: “ ČD is actively involved in the operation of night trains in Europe. Our goal is to provide Europeans with a comfortable, and sustainable option for travelling across the continent, during the day or night. In line with this vision, we have embraced a partnership with European Sleeper to establish a direct overnight link connecting Prague with Amsterdam and Brussels. This initiative bridges Western and Central Europe and also unlocks new travel possibilities.”

“As a stop on the expanded route of the European Sleeper, Dresden is part of a project in which sustainability is a top priority and in line with our sustainability strategy. We can significantly optimize travel on the east-west axis and enable guests from our important foreign markets such as the Netherlands and the Czech Republic to travel to us in a greener and more comfortable way. We look forward to many additional visitors,” says **Corinne Miseer**, Managing Director of Dresden Marketing GmbH.

**Primátor Svoboda**, the Mayor of Prague also commented: “ The introduction of a night train, specifically expanding its route from Brussels to Prague, is precisely the kind of initiative that connects Europe tangibly and, most importantly, realistically. In general, I also welcome the return to the practice of night train connections, especially at a higher level than what we were accustomed to in the past.”

The new service connecting Brussels, Dresden, and Prague is available from 25 March 2024 starting at €49 for a seat and €79 for a couchette in a shared compartment. In parallel, European Sleeper has been able to secure improved rental carriages. These couchette carriages will significantly increase the comfort and travel experience of the night train passengers.

In its continuing effort to expand its destination offering, European Sleeper is working on the launch of a new route connecting Amsterdam, Brussels, and Barcelona to debut in 2025 or 2026. This route was selected by the European Commission as one of ten pilot projects to improve European cross-border rail connection.

For more information on European Sleeper or to book your journey, visit [www.europeansleeper.eu](http://www.europeansleeper.eu).

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Download the press kit [here](#).

## **European Sleeper company background**

European Sleeper is a Dutch-Belgian railway company founded in 2021 by Elmer van Buuren and Chris Engelsman. With their expertise in night train operations and logistics, European Sleeper is bringing together a wealth of knowledge and experience. European Sleeper raised €500,000 in seed capital, by selling shares to more than 350 small investors from various countries in Europe and beyond. In a new round in 2022, shares worth €2,000,000 were sold to 1,400 new investors. In the current funding round, another €2 million will be raised. Growing the cooperative to more than 3,500 co-owners, The result is an enthusiastic night train community that is actively involved in the company.

## **Contacts details:**

### **Press European Sleeper**

For more information, images, press material and/or interview requests, please contact:

**[press@europeansleeper.eu](mailto:press@europeansleeper.eu)**