

PRESS RELEASE – UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 10 DECEMBER 2025 - 08:00

European Sleeper launches new night train to Switzerland and Milan from June 2026

First departure from Brussels and Amsterdam on Thursday, 18 June 2026

Utrecht, 10 December 2025 – European Sleeper is steadily expanding its night train network. Following the launch of the Paris–Berlin route on 26 March 2026, a new night train to Milan is now planned for June 2026. The train will run three times a week and is expected to offer direct coaches from both Brussels and Amsterdam. Planned intermediate stops include Cologne, Bern, Brig, and Stresa on Lago Maggiore.

European Sleeper is a 100% community-owned Dutch–Belgian railway company, fully focused on night train operations between major European destinations. The company is responding to the growing demand for international rail travel and, since launching in 2023, has built a trusted reputation as one of Europe’s few independent international train operators.

European Sleeper currently connects Brussels, Amsterdam, Berlin, Dresden and Prague three times a week and has already carried almost 240,000 passengers on more than 750 night trains. A second European Sleeper night train service will start at the end of March 2026 on the route between Paris and Berlin, taking over the service that ÖBB and SNCF will discontinue on 15 December 2025.

A new north–south backbone for train travellers in Europe

The new route from Amsterdam and Brussels to Switzerland and Milan creates an important north–south connection at the European level. It serves both leisure and business travellers, linking major economic and cultural regions overnight. Efficient connections in Brussels (to and from London), Cologne (to and from Hamburg and

Berlin), Bern (to and from Zürich and Geneva), and Milan (to and from Venice, Florence, and Rome) further extend the reach and impact of this new night train service.



Switzerland and northern Italy are offering key destinations for mountaineering, city breaks, water sports, and winter sports on this route.

In Switzerland, the train will follow the historic Simplon route via Bern, Brig, and Domodossola into Italy, stopping in Stresa on the shores of Lago Maggiore before arriving in Milan. It allows travellers to enjoy the inspiring early-morning and evening views of Alpine valleys and serene lakes along the way.

Separate train parts from Amsterdam and Brussels

To offer suitable departure and arrival times from both Amsterdam, Brussels, as well as Cologne, European Sleeper decided to split and combine separate train parts to/from Amsterdam and Brussels in Western Germany. The company strongly believes all three city trip destinations are important for a viable business case, also because of their large populations and travel potential.

Departures from Amsterdam and Brussels are scheduled for Monday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings, arriving in Switzerland and Milan the following morning. The return service from Milan will operate on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday nights. European Sleeper is currently coordinating the final timetable with the infrastructure managers in each country.

Ticket sales for the Amsterdam/Brussels-Milan service are scheduled to open in January or February 2026. The train will hold the usual night train travel classes, with pricing similar to the current European Sleeper services. This makes the journey accessible to a wide range of travellers, from budget-conscious passengers to those seeking extra comfort.

Starting the new night train to Milan, implies that European Sleeper will not start the route to Barcelona in 2026 already. Nevertheless, the company is still preparing for this route as a next step, probably starting operations in 2027 or 2028.

About European Sleeper

European Sleeper is a Dutch-Belgian railway company focused on operating night trains. The company is part of a movement that has put night trains back on the map in Europe. European Sleeper was founded by two passionate night train enthusiasts: Elmer van Buuren and Chris Engelsman, who together bring extensive knowledge and experience in night train operations.

With its night trains, European Sleeper aims to connect countries, regions, cities, people, and businesses across Europe. The company's first night train between Berlin and Brussels departed on 25 May 2023. In 2024, the route was extended to Dresden and Prague.

European Sleeper's cooperative ownership model enables anyone who believes in sustainable European train travel to support its ambition to expand night train services across Europe. European Sleeper is currently running a funding campaign that gives individuals and organisations the opportunity to invest from €280 and become part of Europe's growing night train movement. The company aims to raise €1.3 million in a new round starting today, followed by an additional €1.0 million from early January 2026.

Notes to editor

Representatives of European Sleeper are available for interviews regarding the Amsterdam/Brussels – Milan route, the company's sharefunding campaign, and the cooperative ownership model.

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Sharefunding: Information [page](#).

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Press kit, high-resolution images, and additional information: www.europeansleeper.eu/press