

Press Release

EUROPEAN SLEEPER OPENS THIRD INVESTMENT ROUND AFTER SUCCESSFUL FIRST JOURNEY

BRUSSELS – ANTWERP – ROTTERDAM – AMSTERDAM – BERLIN

Since 25 May 2023, the first European Sleeper trains have been operating between Brussels, Amsterdam, and Berlin. The start of this unique community-based initiative attracted a lot of attention from the international media. In response to all this interest, from 21 June 2023 European Sleeper is offering private investors another opportunity to come on board. With the newly available growth capital, European Sleeper can reach more travellers, offer more destinations, and provide an even better service on board.

A successful departure

Following its successful launch, European Sleeper is ready to take the next steps. In 2021, European Sleeper was founded by Elmer van Buuren and Chris Engelsman. They chose a cooperative, because the company has been established and financed by a wide community of sleeper train fans. In two investment rounds, European Sleeper attracted €2.5 million in equity from more than 1,700 small and medium-sized private investors. This enabled European Sleeper to make a very speedy start, without incurring debts. Furthermore, a unique European railway company has emerged, which is completely community owned.

European Sleeper wants to continue its journey

As a start-up, it is not an easy venture to launch a new sleeper train service connecting European capitals. Good sleeping cars are currently difficult to find and establishing a suitable train service is a labour-intensive process. Nevertheless, European Sleeper is well on its way to becoming an important player in international rail services between Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany.

Co-founder Chris Engelsman: "Our trains are operating, so our dream has come true. "However, the end of our journey is not yet in sight. We want to achieve more, which means we need more growth capital."

Immediately after the launch of the first sleeper trains, European Sleeper aims to take more important steps. Due to the huge shortage of sleeping cars, last year preparations were started for the purchase of their own sleeping cars. In 2022, capital was raised specifically for that purpose. The first designs are now available, and partners are being

selected for the implementation.

At the same time, it is important to be able to invest in the existing rail services, to be able to reach more travellers, offer more destinations and enable European Sleeper to provide an even better service on board. For example, expensive technical integrations to sell tickets via many more channels. Or preparing new connections and rail services. Or hiring a restaurant car for the existing sleeper train. All this requires growth capital.

For that reason, European Sleeper is offering both existing and new investors the opportunity to buy shares in the company in a third round. In mid-June, European Sleeper will open the new investment round in which shares worth €3 will be issued. Private investors can take part from €250. This is expected to be the last opportunity for a while, with future investments being made from own funds.

What is the final destination?

Co-founder Elmer van Buuren: "Obviously, I can't say for certain." However, our aim is to bring back the sleeper train and its charms to the European stage. Ultimately, we want to connect Europe in an efficient, sustainable, and fun way. "We are already well on our way..."

European Sleeper is growing fast. Next year, we expect to extend the current connection between Brussels and Berlin to Dresden and Prague. Furthermore, we have taken concrete steps to introduce services between Amsterdam, Brussels, and Barcelona from 2025. The latter connection was chosen by the European Commission as one of the ten pilot projects to improve international rail services in Europe. European Sleeper therefore expects to get support for implementing good international rail services and for the funding of its own carriages.

About European Sleeper

European Sleeper is a Dutch-Belgian rail company focusing on sleeper trains. Since May 2023, 11 sleeper cars travel three times a week between Brussels and Berlin, and over 10,000 tickets have already been sold. European Sleeper offers an efficient, sustainable, and fun way to travel in Europe, which appeals to both business travellers and holidaymakers. Passengers can enjoy the unique and unforgettable experience of falling asleep in one country and waking up in another, without sacrificing extra time and money.

Not for publication:

For more information, image material and/or to request interviews, please contact:

Press European Sleeper

Press@europeansleeper.eu

More information about European Sleeper: www.europeansleeper.eu