

PRESS RELEASE

Ban flights on European routes that trains can reach in 4 hours or less and when there are night trains

BRUSSELS, April 27th 2021: earlier this month, France banned domestic flights on routes where passengers can complete the same journey by train in under 2 ½ hours.

This is welcome indeed – France must be commended! But 2 ½ hours is not enough to cover all high speed rail journeys within the country. And why not apply the same measure to cross-border rail journeys as well?

➤ **Last but not least, what about a similar measure to grow night trains?**

France applied this measure to cut carbon emissions by 40% before 2030 (compared to 1990). It is a good step in the right direction – but was it enough? For example: it takes 3 hours to get by train from Paris to Marseilles on the Mediterranean coast and just 25 minutes more from Paris to Montpellier – these important routes should have been included too.

Meanwhile: as part of its Climate Target Plan, the EU Commission proposes to reduce carbon emissions to at least 55% below 1990 levels by 2030.

Seeing as there is a now Single European Railway Area, how about increasing the flight ban to all routes that trains can reach in **4 hours or less** – and then have it apply to both cross-border and domestic journeys, such as:

Vienna <-> Munich London <-> Amsterdam Stockholm <-> Gothenburg

Last but not least: how about banning flights that serve exactly the same routes as night trains – no matter how far the distance within Europe – if they both take off & land between 16.30 in the afternoon and 09.30 the next morning??

➤ Such measures would boost the EU Green Deal and help grow the passenger rail market for all operators – both publicly & privately owned.

ALLRAIL's President Dr. Erich Forster says: *"France has made the right first step. Now it's time for European stakeholders to grasp the opportunity and become more ambitious! As US President Joe Biden reminded us all last week: we are now in a "decisive decade"¹ for tackling climate change!"*

¹ [Biden: This will be 'decisive decade' for tackling climate change - BBC News](#)