

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Two More New Cross-Border Night Trains that will "Connect Europe" and lead to higher demand for rail**

**BRUSSELS, April 7<sup>th</sup> 2021: yesterday it was announced that there will be two more new EU cross-border Open Access night trains <sup>1</sup>. One of them will even link four capital cities during the same night: Brussels, Amsterdam, Berlin & Prague. They will both provide night train services that do not yet exist.**

**Clearly, privately owned operators are investing in Open Access night trains – this will lead to modal shift to rail, away from flights and the car. But many more night train routes *could* be commercially viable – if only EU Member States would remove the many barriers to entry for Open Access.**

Night trains will not grow unless they are demand driven & passenger centric. The default setting should be commercially driven “Open Access” trains – so that the market can remain competitive and adapt to changing mobility needs.

**The EU Member States are best placed** to remove the barriers for Open Access:

1. By supporting infrastructure managers to reduce track access charges on a permanent basis, in line with recent EU Regulation 2020/1429.
2. By setting up rolling stock pools for night train carriages that all operators can access – in a fair & non-discriminatory manner.
3. By introducing impartial rail ticket retail, making all services easier to find.

It makes no sense that, if cross-border night trains can be done in an Open Access manner (e.g. Sweden <-> Germany by the private operator Snälltåget), some EU Member States now want to close the market by paying subsidy to only one operator: typically a state incumbent. Sweden is a current example of this.

Instead, it will be more Open Access night trains that attract more passengers. This is great for the environment and great for the EU Green Deal! ALLRAIL's President Dr. Erich Forster says: *“These two new night trains will each be a ‘Connecting Europe Express’ – both of them will lead to higher demand for rail!”*

**In order to celebrate these new services and the European Year of Rail 2021, check out our new video: “Market opening is the Future of Passenger Rail”**

To see it, please click here: <https://youtu.be/n6PTWFYq3es>

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<sup>1</sup> [New night trains planned from Berlin to Amsterdam and Brussels \(berliner-zeitung.de\)](#)