

PRESS RELEASE

New CNN article shows how competition in passenger rail has severely reduced air travel

BRUSSELS, October 18th 2021: in a [major new article](#)¹, the global news channel CNN shows how competition in long distance passenger rail in Italy has led to a huge growth in passengers and reduced the domestic flight market.

Passenger numbers “*almost quadrupled in a decade*” while at the same time Italy is “*only country in the world to have two high-speed train operators*”² – since 2012, Trenitalia and newcomer Italo are in competition with each other.

This is not a coincidence – evidence shows intramodal competition grows the total rail sector³. More rail travel & fewer flights leads to lower CO2 emissions.

There are some interesting quotes in the new CNN article¹:

- A frequent traveller calls fares “*not much – compared to France, Germany & Switzerland*” (in those 3 countries there is no high speed rail competition)
- Even the state-owned operator, Trenitalia, admits that “*the number of trains on the lines has doubled*”.

ALLRAIL President Dr. Erich Forster states: “*this new CNN article is a major takeaway for the European Year of Rail 2021!*”

Yes, building new rail infrastructure is important, but – unless there is also a level playing field within the rail sector as well – then most other countries will not experience the benefits of intramodal competition that have happened in Italy”. Both state-owned and privately owned operators must have fair and non-discriminatory opportunity to participate in all European rail initiatives”.

To meet Europe’s climate change goals, passenger rail must become the transport mode for the masses. Italy & a few other countries are leading the way. For this reason, it is great to see new intramodal competition starting this week in the UK, with the operator [Lumo](#)⁴ launching new competing long distance passenger rail services between London & Edinburgh. One of its main goals is to win passengers from domestic flights. We wish this new operator every success.

¹ <https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/italy-high-speed-trains-alitalia/index.html>

² That is: until May 2021, when domestic intramodal high speed passenger rail competition began within Spain as well

³ As demonstrated once again in a new statistic published by French state operator SNCF last week: [Post | LinkedIn](#)

⁴ [Search, Compare & Buy Train Tickets - Lumo](#) services will begin on Thursday 21st October 2021