

Rail Report Europe

by Back on Track

European network to support cross-border night trains

Our goal: a 24/7 Rail System



By Trevor Garrod

Why should we have a 24/7 rail system? Rail competes with other modes of transport which are often less "green." Rail needs to attract more longer-

distance users from those other modes in order to reach its full potential in combatting climate change.

Night trains - the backbone of European long-distance transport

That means night trains have a role in the 24/7 service and the tide is beginning to turn in favour of this. But what is needed now? Night trains must be easy to find out about, book and use. Fares and facilities need to be attractive - and one size does not fit all. The night train needs to leave and arrive in city centres at reasonable times. And the night train net should be part of a Europe-wide net with coordinated relations and one that connects all major cities in Europe.

Connection services should be convenient and reliable

Connecting services should be convenient, because sometimes the night train is a connecting link in a longer journey chain, e.g. Eurostar from London to Brussels, then night



In the centre of European power: the support of the European politicians, as well in the Parliament as in the European Commission, will be of crucial importance for a Europe-wide night train system. (Pic.: Jochen Reitstätter)

train to Vienna or, hopefully before long, Berlin; Or evening Eurostar to London, then Caledonian Sleeper to Scotland.

Track access charges should be reasonable

Innovation should be encouraged. This may mean a subsidy from public funds, at least for a limited period. or public investment in new stock. Innovation may also be required to meet challenges - such as if freight trains need the track overnight or there is engineering work. There is also the Lunajet project for a combined sleeper and goods train

Barcelona - Frankfurt.

Catering on the train? Or a package whereby breakfast is served at the destination station - all part of the price.

Some of my experiences and what can be learned from them:

1978 La Tour de Carol - Paris Austerlitz (with bicycle)

2007 Munich - Cologne, connecting into Thalys for Brussels

2018 Vienna - Cologne and positive comments of a fellow passenger who had not been on a night train for 30 years!

Growth of Back-on-Track, and work of other pressure groups

It's not about turning back the clock (e.g. no longer a need for night train from Basel to Paris) but about the role which a modern night train can play meeting travellers' expectations in the 21st century. In this sense we are looking forward to Brussels conference October 15th - 17th.

Picture right: Travellers checking the departure time of there train at Bruxelles Midi - Europe's growing rail hub.



Back on Track in the web:
<https://www.back-on-track.eu>

New Logo for Back on Track — Rail Report Europe launches first edition

Back-on-Track is a European network to support European cross-border passenger train traffic and in particular the night trains. The network wants to support a new green deal in Europe, where rail services including night trains can play a major role.

New logo to underline the basic message
The crucial message of the Europe-wide network is the promotion of the night train system, with which we want to link our continent closer together. Therefore we have stressed the EU-blue colour at the head of the report and the stars in the logo refer to the stars in the European flag. The logo itself is an updated version of the existing logo, but work on it is still in progress. Tower Bridge is still indicated in the logo as well as other well-known

buildings or landmarks of other European capital cities. This shall express that since there are still our British colleagues in the network we still see our British friends as a major part of Europe and the rail system of the continent.

Upcoming topics of Rail Report Europe
In the following editions of the report we want to focus on cross border links, standards on international trains, information and ticketing and news and comments on international night train developments - as an excerpt. If anybody has anymore topic proposals, we should focus on, feel free to contact us on back-on-track-report@catchup-pr.com.



We are looking for supporters!

You are interested in writing for the European Rail Report? Or you've got proposals for topics we should focus on?

We always welcome new members in our team and would appreciate the establishment of a transnational editorial board comprised of people of from everywhere in Europe.

You need more information? Please feel free to write an email to trevorgarrod2000@yahoo.co.uk or back-on-track-report@catchup-pr.com.



Editorial committee

The Rail Report Europe is issued on a quarterly basis. The editorial team consists of Trevor Garrod, 15 Clapham Road South, Lowestoft, NR32 1RQ, and Jochen Reitstätter, Eisenacher Straße 44, 04105 Leipzig.

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Actions and Meetings

Conferences

Event: Brussels Conference
Date: October, 15th to 17th
Location: Brussels
More information: www.back-on-track.eu

Internal affairs

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