

WB Night Trains Connection Possibility

Transport Community Treaty - 8th Technical Committee on Railway



Developments of night train services between 2000 - 2019

- Challenges:
 - Outdated rolling stock
 - High-speed railway lines made domestic night train obsolete on several routes
 - strong competitors appeared:
 - Long distance coach: market opening since 2010 in DE, FR, IT
 - Low cost airlines: Airline liberalisation in EU since 1995
- Night train operation ceased between 2000 and 2019 by the following operators:
 - NS
 - SNCB
 - DB AG (2016)
 - SNCF (only 3 domestic lines have remained)
- But ÖBB took over some lines from DB in Western Europe
 - Berlin / Hamburg – Zurich
 - Munich – Rome / Milan
- ÖBB investing in Night Train services
- Few private operators (Snälltåget, RegioJet) started operation of night trains

Overview of operating night train in Europe (2019)

Changes in 2020:

- New night train Vienna – Brussels
- Impact of COVID-19 on night trains:
 - Night train Paris – Venezia (Thello) disappeared
 - Night trains on Iberian peninsula

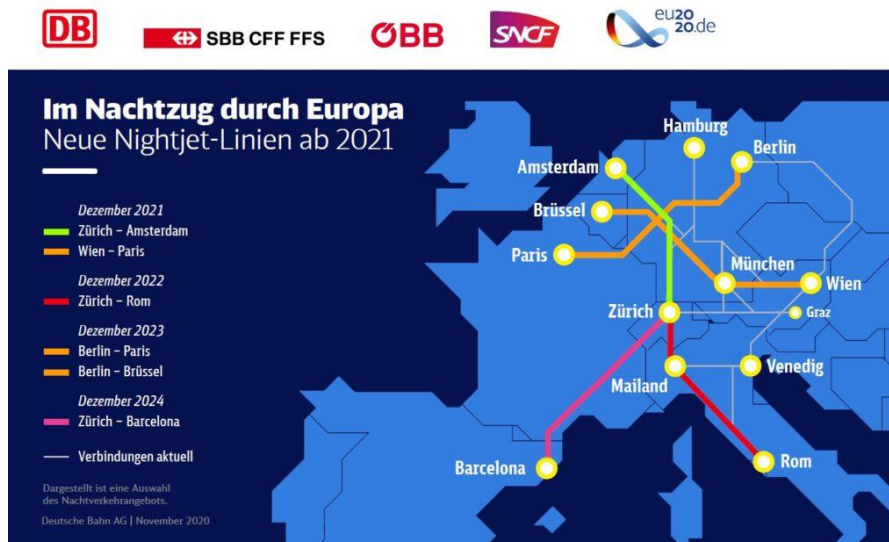
But strong political support on member state or EU – level for the introduction of further night trains



Challenges to operate night trains

- Expensive rolling stock (e.g. sleeping cars, couchettes)
- “Ideal night train timetable” constraints
 - Departure window between 18-22 in the evening, arrival window between 7-9 in the morning
 - Capacity bottlenecks in the morning and evening rush hours exist at a number of major stations
 - Ideal timetable not always possible
- Operational constraints
 - split / join operations cause delays
 - Reduced speed due to freight trains and access restrictions to high speed lines
 - Track maintenance works may trigger frequent timetable changes

- Political support:
 - European commission launched study about the night trains and possible funding
 - Some member states will subsidize international lines (e.g. Sweden)
- Operational developments
 - Initiative from ÖBB, DB, SBB and SNCF to introduce new trains until 2024



- Operational developments
 - Snälltåget will offer a new night train Stockholm - Malmö – Berlin from 2021
 - RegioJet will offer again the seasonal night train Prague – Ljubljana – Rijeka and Prague - Poland - Ukraine



Night train Stockholm–Berlin

Snälltåget's new line Stockholm–Malmö–Copenhagen–Hamburg–Berlin will be the first night train service to operate on a regular basis between Sweden, Denmark and Germany since the 1990's. The first train departs on March 27, 2021.



The future challenges to night trains

- Covid-19 and climate change discussion has an impact on night trains and their competitors
 - Assumption, that there will be less business trips after Covid, up to 50% replaced by video calls
 - Holiday trips will be more domestic or in neighbor countries, no need to fly
 - Reduced capacity of airlines, currently 40 % of the capacity before Covid
 - less airline capacity in the long-distance market
 - long distance coach operator FlixBus stopped currently all operations in Europe
- Climate change may trigger a shift to sustainable transport modes
 - Night trains are always explicitly mentioned as one measure
 - CO₂ taxation schemes makes flying more costly (revision the EU Emission Trading System Directive 2003/87/EC concerning aviation is ongoing)
- This may trigger opportunities for night trains

Current connections in Western Balkan region 1

BELGRADE (BEOGRAD) - WIEN (VIENNA) TIMETABLE

DEPARTURES ON: SATURDAY, 09.01.2021.

21:00 → 05:45 (⊕ 08:45)

BAS - Central bus station → Blaguss VIB



Buy a ticket! →

→ 24,99 EUR

↔ 39,99 EUR



BELGRADE (BEOGRAD) - LJUBLJANA TIMETABLE

DEPARTURES ON: SUNDAY, 10.01.2021.

00:50 → 09:05 (⊕ 08:15)

BAS - Central bus station → Bus station

Kani-bus prevozníštvo

Non Bookable



BELGRADE (BEOGRAD) - SARAJEVO TIMETABLE

FRIDAY, 08.01.2021.

10:00 → 17:25 (⊕ 07:25)

BAS - Central bus station → East Sarajevo Bus station



Non Bookable



11:30 → 19:15 (⊕ 07:45)

BAS - Central bus station → East Sarajevo Bus station



Buy a ticket! →

→ 20,50 EUR





↔ 29,39 EUR



Current connections in Western Balkan region 2



BELGRADE (BEOGRAD) - PODGORICA TIMETABLE

FRIDAY, 08.01.2021.

<p>08:30 → 18:30 (⌚ 10:00) BAS - Central bus station → Bus station</p> <p>▼ ⓘ</p>		<p>Non Bookable</p>
<p>21:10 → 07:10 (⌚ 10:00) Topcider → Railway station</p> <p>▼ ⓘ </p>		<p>Non Bookable</p>
<p>22:00 → 07:00 (⌚ 09:00) BAS - Central bus station → Bus station</p> <p>▼ ⓘ ☎</p>		<p>Buy a ticket! →</p> <p>→ 23,99 EUR</p> <p>⇄ 38,39 EUR</p>

BELGRADE (BEOGRAD) - PRISTINA TIMETABLE

FRIDAY, 08.01.2021.

<p>10:35 → 18:15 (⌚ 07:40) BAS - Central bus station → Bus station</p> <p>▼ ⓘ</p>		<p>Non Bookable</p>
<p>16:00 → 23:15 (⌚ 07:15) BAS - Central bus station → Bus station</p> <p>▼ ⓘ</p>	<p>Kimco</p>	<p>Non Bookable</p>
<p>20:45 → 04:00 (⌚ 07:15) BAS - Central bus station → Bus station</p> <p>▼ ⓘ</p>	<p>31. Maj</p>	<p>Non Bookable</p>
<p>21:30 → 04:00 (⌚ 06:30) BAS - Central bus station → Bus station</p> <p>▼ ⓘ ☎</p>		<p>Buy a ticket! →</p> <p>→ 15,99 EUR</p> <p>⇄ 21,61 EUR</p>

BELGRADE (BEOGRAD) - ISTANBUL TIMETABLE

DEPARTURES ON: SUNDAY, 10.01.2021.

<p>10:00 → 23:45 (⌚ 13:45) Novi Beograd - Sava centar (auto-put) → Beyazit - Kapali carsi</p> <p>▼ ⓘ ☎</p>		<p>Buy a ticket! →</p> <p>→ 50,99 EUR</p> <p>⇄ 101,98 EUR</p>
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How ERA may support night trains?

- Vehicle authorization for cross-border rolling stock (e.g. Talgo train sets in Bosnia produced for night train services)
- Harmonization / reduction of national rules
- Assess the present day situation in the Western Balkans
- Invite experts on the subject matter to a dedicated meeting
- Organize meetings between WB6 railway undertakings and from neighboring countries in the EU (e.g. Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania)
- To facilitate the set up of a pilot night train service in line of the Western Balkan investment plan and Smart Mobility strategy together with the TCT (e.g between Vienna and Istanbul)

- Research for TRAN Committee - Passenger night trains in Europe: the end of the line? (2017) :
[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/585891/IPOL_STU\(2016\)585891_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/585891/IPOL_STU(2016)585891_EN.pdf)
- UIC Study night trains 2.0 final presentation. New opportunities by HSR? (2016) : <https://www.shop-ETF.com/en/uic-study-night-trains-2-0-final-presentation-new-opportunities-by-hsr-executive-summary.html>
- <http://www.night-trains.com/>
- EC Mobility Strategy:
https://ec.europa.eu/transport/themes/mobilitystrategy_en
- Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans:
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1811



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