

NIGHT TRAIN AMSTERDAM – BARCELONA

SELECTED AS EUROPEAN UNION PILOT SERVICE

The European Commission announced yesterday that it will support our initiative to start a new night train between Amsterdam and Barcelona as one of ten EU pilot project proposals to boost European cross-border rail. This will help European Sleeper to overcome existing obstacles, such as capacity allocation and financing of rolling stock.

European Sleeper is very proud to be part of this ambition of the European Commission. For the new Dutch-Belgian railway company, the train to Barcelona will be the second route after introducing the Brussels – Amsterdam – Berlin night train in May 2023.

The Amsterdam – Barcelona night train will strongly improve Europe's quality of north-south rail connections. Even more so because one travels efficiently while asleep on the night train, and distances are reduced to just a night away.

On the way between Amsterdam and Barcelona, European Sleeper is planning to call at Rotterdam, Antwerp, Brussels and Lille (connection from London) in the evening and Avignon, Montpellier, Perpignan, Figueras and Girona in the morning. European Sleeper aims to start the new night train between Amsterdam and Barcelona in the spring of 2025.

A crucial element of the pilot project is the deployment of refurbished night train carriages with more comfort, a modern feel, and more privacy options. The availability and financing of rolling stock is an essential barrier for new entrants. The pilot project can support European Sleeper to overcome this barrier, for instance, by identifying opportunities for using relevant European financing instruments.

As a first step, the European Commission will invite all applicants to discuss the pilot projects in detail, agree on potential ways to support them, and further detail the planning.

European Sleeper company background

European Sleeper, a new Dutch-Belgian railway company dedicated to night trains, founded by two entrepreneurs

passionate about night trains, Elmer van Buuren and Chris Engelsman, leads the movement in putting the night trains back on the map in Europe. With their expertise and experience in night trains, they aim to connect countries, regions, cities, people, and businesses throughout Europe with their services.

The first night train between Berlin and Brussels will launch on **25 May 2023**, with plans to extend to Dresden and Prague in 2024. Ticket sales for the train launch on **20 February 2023**.

European Sleeper, organized as a cooperative, raised €500,000 in seed capital within 15 minutes by selling shares to over 350 small investors from Europe and beyond in May 2021. In a new round in the summer of 2022, European Sleeper sold €2,000,000 worth of shares to 1,400 new investors, creating an enthusiastic night train community actively involved in the company.

Contact details (not for publication):

Chris Engelsman

Co-founder and director

For any press-related inquiries, please contact us at press@europeansleeper.eu