

Europe on Rail: Strengthening the European spirit with a rail renaissance

Description

In this workshop session organized by the EuropeOnRail network, you will learn about the potential of rail for convenient, fast, and reliable climate-friendly mobility across Europe. We will identify the main policy, technical and market barriers to international passenger rail mobility in Europe and interactively discuss specific solutions. You will get in touch with like-minded players across Europe and find out more about your potential contribution. Europe on Rail is a coalition working to accelerate modal shifts, create green jobs and improve territorial cohesion in the post-covid mobility era.

Background

2021 – the European Year of Rail – has shown both the potential and shortcomings of European rail. Rail is not only one of the most environmentally friendly modes of transport, but also one of the safest. However, today rail accounts for only 8% of passenger transport in Europe, while fossil-fuel powered mobility increases every year producing a growing amount of carbon emissions and air pollution. An improved and better- connected rail system could be a game changer and offer a sustainable alternative. Yet international rail seems has not reached its full potential. Challenges are:

- Connectivity: international and regional trains are not well connected and several cross-border links non-operational – how can an European schedule, „Europakt“ be realized?
- Ticketing: passengers have no convenient way to book international connections – how can ticketing- and real time-data be made openly available?
- Market opening: large, partly state-owned companies dominate some markets, while some connections are not yet profitable – how can competition actually improve quality?
- Rolling stock: internationally compatible day and night carriers are lacking and more expensive – how can investment in rolling stock be increased and effective?

Political support for rail increases, e.g. in the EUs Fit for 55, Covid Recovery and Resilience Facility and upcoming Action Plan for Passenger Rail. In our interactive workshop we will explore how a European multi-stakeholder coalition can trigger the change.

Speakers

- Valentin Desfontaines (RAC-France, France)
- Jacob Rohm (GermanWatch, Germany)
- Manfred Treber (GermanWatch, Germany)
- Lukasz Janeczko (Civil Affairs Institute, Poland)
- Raul Cazan (2°C, Romania)
- Jeremie Fosse (eco-union, Spain)