



**ÖBB and DB to end through tickets that involve night trains –  
meaning no passenger rights coverage for the entire journey  
- *A Sign of Things To Come?***

Brussels, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**ALLRAIL is dismayed to learn** from a recent article<sup>1</sup> in the German weekly news magazine *Spiegel* that the Austrian and German rail incumbents (ÖBB and DB) plan to end “through tickets” in cases when ÖBB’s night trains form part of a connecting rail journey with DB.

They plan to turn such connecting journeys into two separate, successive tickets, meaning that (under current legislation) there would be no passenger rights coverage from start until end of the journey - if a connection is missed, passengers will face the new risk that they to pay a 2nd time for a the 2nd train, because the original train was missed and the original ticket had only been valid for that one.

This problem arises from the fact that the EU Rail Passenger Rights Regulation of 2007 and the “CIV” treaty that governs international rail travel in Europe are outdated and no longer fit for purpose.

- They tie passenger rights coverage from start until end of a connecting journey to ‘one ticket’, the so-called “through ticket”. Passengers only have the right to protection for the entire journey if they buy a through ticket.

**If this stays the case and through tickets remain at the incumbents’ discretion, passenger rights for connecting journeys can be easily be annulled**, as the article in *Spiegel* has shown.

Nick Brooks, Secretary General of ALLRAIL, says: **“We hope this is not a sign of things to come. The current EU rail passenger rights recast proposal should not allow for situations like this to happen, in which the passenger experience gets worsened”.**

Today, in 2018, digitalisation enables ticket vendors to put together separate, successive tickets on connecting rail services into one booking. By doing so, they often provide a more optimal journey (e.g. cheaper or faster) between any two railway stations than the limited range of through tickets.

Brooks states further: **“Europe needs a robust and mandatory rail passenger rights framework that embraces digitalisation and protects travellers with separate, successive tickets that form a connecting journey**. This would also protect them in cases where a through ticket is annulled, such as what ÖBB and DB are intending to do”.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.spiegel.de/reise/europa/nachtzug-tickets-rechte-von-fahrgaesten-werden-eingeschraenkt-a-1199512.html>