



**1<sup>st</sup> Flixtrain departs from the German capital Berlin -  
powered by our member Leo Express.**

Brussels, 26th April 2018.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Flixtrain to serve the German capital departed from Berlin for Stuttgart this afternoon.

FlixBus has launched Flixtrain with a similar model to its long-distance coach network - it handles development, sales and marketing while operations and fleet management are provided by partners. The partner for the new rail service between Berlin and Stuttgart is our member, Leo Express.

At a special event in Berlin to mark the launch of the new service, the German Transport Ministry's Permanent Secretary Enak Ferlemann had some very firm words. He said: **"New entrants attract additional customers to Rail & bring about modal shift. It should no longer be the case that the incumbent remains a monopoly with 99% market share in longer distance passenger rail"**.

ALLRAIL's Secretary General Nick Brooks travelled on the inaugural service today. He said: "It is surprising that the incumbent often tries to portray Germany as a role model for competition. In long distance passenger rail, this is certainly not the case."

**ALLRAIL believes that it is imperative that the right conditions are in place to encourage more new operators - like Leo Express - to enter the market.** For example: mandatory through ticketing & impartial retail (similar to what some of DB's subsidiaries benefit from outside of Germany).

Otherwise, ALLRAIL fears that the ambitious modal shift goals of the new German government will simply not be achievable.