

EN

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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.3.2026)

1. With approximately 80% of the 2021-2027 budget allocated to rail projects, the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) contributes to the viability of night trains by building or upgrading rail infrastructure, removing bottlenecks and by investing in interoperability and digitalisation, such as the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS). Individual operations of train services are not eligible under CEF.

The EU Pilot Services Initiative¹ supports new cross-border rail services, including night trains routes. With the High-Speed Communication², the Commission presents a roadmap to achieve a well-functioning and faster high-speed rail network by 2040, including night services.

Through InvestEU³ the Union facilitates the purchase of rolling stock by providing guarantees and risk-sharing instruments.

Yet public resources are not always necessary. Thanks to private initiatives, for example, the night trains Paris – Berlin and Berlin – Stockholm will be continued⁴ in 2026. These services will be operated without public subsidies.

2. Regulation (EC) 1370/2007⁵ allows competent authorities to organise cross-border public service obligations services. However, experience shows that night train services can be operated also without public subsidies.

3. In 2025, the Commission adopted Interpretative guidelines on charges for the use of railway infrastructure⁶. The Guidelines highlight that track access charges must take into account that market segments, such as night trains, have a different ability to pay, and should not undermine the competitiveness of rail. Early 2026, the Commission intends to adopt draft legislation to allow customers to easily find, compare and book railway tickets and enjoy passenger rights.

¹ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/connecting-europe-train-10-eu-pilot-services-boost-cross-border-rail-2023-01-31_en.

² COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Connecting Europe through High-Speed Rail: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0903>.

³ https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-programme_en.

⁴ By RDC (Railroad Development Corporation) Deutschland.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2007/1370/oj/eng>.

⁶ C/2025/2545, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/2606/oj/eng>.