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Closing the night gap to Prague

Passengers demand feeder train to “Metropol” night train

After the timetable change in December the night train “Metropol” is going to be cancelled between Prague and Berlin and will only run between Prague and Budapest. No convenient feeder trains from Germany are provided.

“Until now it was possible to enter the Metropol night train in Berlin shortly after 7 pm and wake up in Budapest the next morning. From mid-December this will no longer be possible”, complains Anja Schmotz, Speaker for Eastern Europe Connections of the German Passenger Federation PRO BAHN. “Again, an attractive possibility to discover Europe while sleeping is lost.”

In an effort to reduce its sleeper carriage fleet the Hungarian state railway MÁV is cutting the service back to the Prague – Budapest section. Then it will be necessary to depart Berlin with the EuroCity shortly after 5 pm and change in Prague where there is a stay of over two hours since the replacement InterCity in the Metropol’s time slot already terminates in Dresden.

"As a consequence, day trips from Prague to Berlin become less appealing for tourists and business travellers, because you already need to get back shortly after 5 p.m.", warns Miroslav Vyka, President of the Czech Union of Passengers in Public Transport SCVD.

Both passenger federations urge the train operators to continue the train service on the whole route. The ÖBB are very engaged, especially for the through coaches to Vienna, and are looking for solutions together with the Czech ČD. These solutions will probably take one year to take effect.

“Meanwhile, a solution is required to make travelling with this night train more comfortable,” adds Lukas Iffländer, Deputy Chairman of the Passenger Federation PRO BAHN. “Therefore, the existing Intercity, leaving Berlin after 7 pm and terminating in Dresden, has to be extended to Prague. Thus, a passenger friendly travel time can be ensured.”

About the Passenger Federations PRO BAHN and SCVD

The nonprofit Passenger Federations PRO BAHN and Svaz cestujících ve veřejné dopravě (SCVD) represent the interests of public transport users. Representatives of both Federations are active in many committees and work to influence politicians, public authorities and train operators to achieve better and more attractive public transport. Both Federations are members of the European Passengers’ Federation (EPF). They stand up for international cooperation in the rail sector.

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