

jogo facil de ganhar na blaze - symphonyinn.com

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"It is with great sadness that we must announce the death of a dream. 2 Midnight Trains died today, surrounded by family and friends."

This was the message from Midnight Trains founder Adrien Aumont on May 23, marking the end of the company's vision to create a new network of luxury night trains connecting major European cities.

Europe had been on the brink of a potential night train revolution, as travelers sought out more sustainable links between cities. The appeal of falling asleep in one city center and waking up in another, hundreds of miles away, has become increasingly attractive in an era of heightened environmental concerns and problematic air travel experiences.

However, despite the demand, startups like 2 Midnight Trains face nearly insurmountable challenges in entering the market.

New "open access" rules that allow new operators to share Europe's rail network with existing state-owned railway companies were expected to open the doors for innovative ideas and routes. Consequently, several new operators emerged, proposing a web of new routes, cheaper fares, or more luxurious accommodations.

Nonetheless, only a few have managed to launch their services.

Sweden's Snälltåget, connecting Stockholm with Denmark and Germany, and Czech travel provider Regiojet, operating a handful of overnight routes in Central and Eastern Europe, are among the successful examples. European Sleeper, focusing solely on overnight travel, began its Brussels-Amsterdam-Berlin trains in 2024 and now serves Prague three times a week.

European Sleeper's experiences, including struggles to secure appropriate trains and schedules, offer cautionary lessons for other open-access operators. The company's ambition to launch a new route each year is hindered by a shortage of suitable coaches and the complexities of navigating national railway administrations, particularly in France.

Despite a compelling argument for "clean" air travel and the potential for night trains to encourage people to shift to rail travel on medium-distance routes, Midnight Trains was unable to secure the necessary financial backing. The European Union's rail market, while theoretically open to competition, has primarily opened up to itself, leaving new entrants at a disadvantage.

Crescente demanda

Midnight Trains aimed to offer a deluxe "hotel on wheels" experience between Paris and Barcelona starting in 2025.

Long-term plans included serving 10 destinations radiating from Paris, including Milan/Venice, Florence/Rome, Hamburg, Berlin, and Copenhagen, as well as connections to Madrid, Porto, and Edinburgh via the Channel Tunnel.

Although Midnight Trains discussed options with various suppliers, it did not secure any suitable overnight vehicles, nor did it initiate the process of building or refurbishing them according to its proposed specifications. All prospective open-access train operators face a significant challenge in sourcing appropriate "pre-loved" rolling stock.

Advocates of open-access night trains are urging the European Union to facilitate the creation of

new services by helping fund the procurement of specialized night train coaches, which could then be leased to train companies.

"European Sleeper demonstrates that demand for long-distance cross-border passenger rail, including night trains, is growing fast, and that such services can be operated in a commercially viable open-access manner," explains Brooks.

However, challenges persist beyond acquiring the trains. Traditional venture capitalists and infrastructure funds are not equipped to invest in risky, complex, long-term projects, and rail vehicle leasing companies are reluctant to invest in rolling stock without a guaranteed long-term operating contract.

Night trains are inherently complicated, labor-intensive, and expensive to operate, which has contributed to their decline since the 1970s.

"The effort required to get new sleeper trains up and running should not be underestimated," adds rail expert Mark Smith, better known as online rail travel guru The Man in Seat 61. "But ÖBB and start-ups such as European Sleeper are proving that it can be done."

Legacy railways have found it easier to deliver better overnight trains. ÖBB, working with Swiss Federal Railways and Germany's Deutsche Bahn, has reinvigorated overnight routes linking hubs in Vienna and Zürich with cities in Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Poland, Czechia, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

This success has encouraged other countries, including Italy, France, and Sweden, to re-examine overnight operations and propose new carriages to improve their offering.

Italian State Railways has ordered 70 new carriages for night trains, featuring high-quality cabins with en suite toilets and showers, some with double beds.

With the notable exception of Nightjet, European night train services have yet to meet expectations. Demand is growing, but the immense challenges of financing and setting up new operations are suppressing growth.

Formidable operational, political, and financial obstacles will not disappear overnight. A concerted effort by the EU and member states is required to deliver railways truly open to competition, ensuring the long-awaited revolution in European night trains can thrive.

Activistas acusan al asesor independiente del gobierno sobre la violencia política de conflicto de intereses

Se ha acusado al asesor independiente del gobierno sobre la violencia política de tener un conflicto de intereses, después de que surgiera que tenía vínculos de cabildeo con empresas que se beneficiarían de las restricciones al protestar.

John Woodcock, ex diputado laborista y ahora par independiente, ha preparado una revisión de la "extrema izquierda" involucrada en el activismo disruptivo, que incluye el activismo contra el cambio climático y la guerra. Al mismo tiempo, ha estado presidiendo y asesorando a grupos de cabildeo que representan a fabricantes de armas y empresas de combustibles fósiles.

Propuestas de prohibiciones de protesta

El informe de Woodcock se espera que se publique la próxima semana, más de tres años después de que se encargara. Este fin de semana, dijo que, entre unas 40 recomendaciones, propondrá prohibiciones para al menos dos grupos de protesta, nombrando a Just Stop Oil, la campaña de activistas climáticos, y Palestine Action, que actúa contra las empresas de armas que suministran al ejército israelí.

Las organizaciones podrían ser prohibidas, lo que restringiría su capacidad para recaudar fondos y su derecho a reunirse en el Reino Unido. El Guardián aún no ha visto una copia del informe.

Vínculos con empresas que podrían beneficiarse de las restricciones de protesta

Las entradas de Woodcock en el registro de intereses de la Cámara de los Lores muestran que recibe un pago por actuar como presidente del Purpose Business Coalition, una organización dirigida por la empresa de relaciones públicas y cabildeo Crowne Associates, que cuenta con la empresa petrolera BP y la empresa de armas Leonardo entre sus clientes.

El registro también muestra que es asesor remunerado de Rud Pedersen Public Affairs, otra empresa de cabildeo, que actúa para Glencore, una empresa minera suiza con intereses en el carbón, y Enwell Energy, que se describe a sí misma como "un negocio de petróleo y gas altamente enfocado".

Todos podrían acoger teóricamente con satisfacción las restricciones a las protestas contra sus operaciones. Leonardo, en particular, ha sido objeto de una campaña persistente de protesta por parte de Palestine Action, incluida la ocupación de sus fábricas durante las cuales se dañó el equipo y se pintó de graffiti la entrada a su sede de Londres.

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