

Beware of greenwashing

Under the French climate law (2021), only short-haul domestic flights that could be made by train within less than 2.5 hours will be scrapped. However, because of the exemptions, the measure will probably only apply to one to three domestic routes, out of more than a hundred. The expected climate impact will be less than **1% reduction in CO2** emissions of the French air transport sector.

List of the routes among the top 150 intra-EU routes which are either served by trains taking less than 6 hours, by direct night trains, or by night train services taking less than 12 hours in 2021:

Connection	Duration of daytime train trip	Route served in less than 6h	Route served by a direct night train	Route served by a night train option under 12h	N. of air passengers (2019)
Paris-Toulouse	4:22	x	x	x	3,221,467
Paris-Nice	5:55	x	x	x	3,191,073
Athens-Thessaloniki	4:23	x			2,621,638
Madrid-Barcelona	2:30	x			2,572,844
Frankfurt-Berlin	3:53	x	x	x	2,248,754
Milan-Paris	7:16		Night train cut since COVID	x	2,160,528
Milan-Catania	13:37		x		2,026,011
Munich-Berlin	3:58	x			1,934,712
Rome-Catania	8:27		x	x	1,824,588
Hamburg-Munich	5:48	x	x	x	1,745,720
Rome-Palermo	10:27		x	x	1,582,685
Paris-Marseille	3:04	x	x	x	1,569,716
Madrid-Lisbon	10:37		Night train cut since COVID		1,558,577
Milan-Palermo	15:05		x		1,539,626
Munich-Düsseldorf	5:02	x	x	x	1,488,902

Berlin-Cologne	4:42	x			1,434,481
Frankfurt-Hamburg	3:37	x	x	x	1,426,732
Stockholm-Copenhagen	5:01	x	x	x	1,397,474
Amsterdam-Paris	3:23	x			1,388,051
Milan-Naples	4:33	x	x	x	1,376,954
Berlin-Stuttgart	5:31	x		x	1,235,068
Berlin-Düsseldorf	4:20	x			1,233,072
Paris-Bordeaux	2:04	x			1,219,673
Venice-Paris	11:39		Night train cut since COVID		1,212,566
Milan-Lamezia Terme	7:34		x	x	1,204,651
Rome-Milan	2:59	x	x	x	1,198,119
Milan-Bari	7:17		x	x	1,159,746
Stockholm-Göteborg	2:59	x			1,148,015
Frankfurt-Munich	3:28	x	x	x	1,146,439
Vienna-Frankfurt	6:49		x	x	1,109,793
Stockholm-Luleå	13:15		x		1,045,828
Barcelona-Sevilla	5:16	x			1,045,029
Paris-Frankfurt	3:50	x			1,042,112
Stockholm-Malmö	4:27	x	x	x	1,022,621
Munich-Cologne	4:38	x	x	x	1,018,045
Munich-Paris	5:47	x			1,014,392
Lisbon-Porto	2:58	x			1,008,288
Paris-Montpellier	3:29	x			989,296
Amsterdam-Munich	11:41		x	x	971,192
Madrid-Porto	10:08			Night train cut since COVID	969,125
Vienna-Berlin	8:15		x	x	966,659
Helsinki-Oulu	5:53	x	x	x	956,641
Vienna-Amsterdam	11:14		x		943,844
Milan-Brindisi	8:14		x	x	885,734
Amsterdam-Frankfurt	3:53	x			882,532

Stockholm-Umeå	9:01		x	x	872,118
Barcelona-Malaga	5:14	x			848,962
Madrid-Bilbao	5:04	x			835,731
Copenhagen-Aalborg	5:00	x			782,849
Vienna-Düsseldorf	8:21		x	x	771,175
Rome-Bari	3:59	x	x	x	765,162
Hamburg-Stuttgart	5:01	x		x	738,375
Frankfurt-Budapest	10:22			x	725,600
Vienna-Hamburg	9:04		x		720,332
Madrid-Santiago	4:40	x			719,692
Rome-Munich	9:08		x		718,525
Paris-Lyon	1:58	x			715,117
Madrid-Vigo	5:40	x			683,927
Madrid-A Coruña	5:12	x			680,075
Vienna-Bucharest	19:22		x		634,044
Paris-Bayonne	3:57	x			629,775
Lyon-Bordeaux	5:05	x			584,312
Brussels-Frankfurt	3:07	x			578,559
Paris-Nantes	2:06	x			568,942
Lyon-Nantes	4:51	x			562,382
Vienna-Milan	9:45		x	x	562,246
Paris-Brest	3:28	x			562,128
Rome-Vienna	11:40		x	x	558,401
Vienna-Stuttgart	6:29			x	558,006
Madrid-Oviedo	4:46	x			548,209
Helsinki-Rovaniemi	8:22		x	x	543,716
Munich-Hannover	4:17	x	x	x	542,253
Venice-Naples	5:10	x		x	535,778
Vienna-Munich	4:00	x	x	x	535,673
Rome-Brindisi	4:57	x	x	x	525,571
Hamburg-Düsseldorf	3:11	x			522,362

Stockholm-Berlin	13:34		x		516,452
Milan-Munich	7:21		x	x	503,772
Turin-Rome	4:20	x	x	x	489,190

- Note: Night trains featuring in this table meet the following criteria: duration over 6 hours long, departure time before 01:00am, arrival time after 05:00am and couchettes and/or sleepers available. Some night trains only run a few days per week, such as Rome-Brindisi. By December 2021, a new night service will operate between Vienna and Paris, which features in the top 150 intra-EU routes.

¹ Greenpeace calculated how much CO2e could be saved by shifting the busiest short haul-flights in Europe to rail. The following key datasets were used for the calculation: number of flight passengers per route in 2019, air distance (city-city as airports were merged for cities with more than one airport), train distance (if there was a difference in the travel distance between day and night train, Greenpeace took the distance of a day train when under 6 hours, otherwise the night train connection), EU average CO2 per passenger kilometers for flights and trains (EEA 2021 data: 160 g/CO2e/pkm for flights and 33 g/CO2/pkm for trains). In addition, 50 kms were added to each flight for non-straight flights, waiting circles and other deviations from the straight way.

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