2ND FLORENCE INTERMODAL FORUM

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COMPETING OR COMPLEMENTARY MODES?

• How can high speed rail and low-cost air be complementary?
• Do they serve different needs?
• Can they co-ordinate and consistently develop as two parts of the “whole journey”? (or “journey chain”)
WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN PASSENGERS’ FEDERATION?

www.epf.eu

• 35 public transport users’ associations in 19 countries
• Some associations are just for one mode; most are multi-modal
• Our members’ journeys are often multi-modal
• Speed and price are important – but so is the “journey chain” – a convenient end-to-end journey.
CUSTOMERS SHOULD HAVE A CHOICE

• We therefore welcome competition, but it should be fair.

• Information sources should be comprehensive and objective (e.g. include check-in times, not just departure times; avoid hidden extras).

• Flexibility is desirable – especially if plans have to be changed.
(HIGH SPEED) TRAIN OR (LOW COST) PLANE?

- London – Brussels: advantage of train
- London – Budapest: advantage of plane
- But for many longer journeys, train and plane may both be part of the journey chain.
- Factors such as frequency, comfort, accessibility of airports and stations also play a role.
RAIL NEED NOT BE HIGH SPEED THROUGHOUT

• EPF members travelling to Basel – flight to Geneva and good quality train which also uses high-speed line between Bern and Olten

• EPF members travelling to Malmo – flight to Copenhagen and frequent train across the Oresund

• Flight to Budapest, frequent bus to Ferihegy station and comfortable onward Inter-City train to Debrecen
INTEGRATION IS IMPORTANT

• High-speed train may not use high-speed line all the way (e.g. Thalys from Paris to the Ruhr; outer reaches of TGV network)

• A high-speed train journey may need to be completed by a regional train – or even a flight to a remote holiday destination.

• The larger the airport, the more it needs good public transport links, with luggage space, easy booking etc.
WHAT SORT OF JOURNEY?

• It may not be a simple out-and-back trip.
• Example 1: Business traveller from Far East flies to Frankfurt and then visits Berlin, Warsaw and Ghent by mixture of high-speed and conventional trains.
• Example 2: Traveller from UK with business in Budapest and Bucharest flies out by Wizzair, uses international train, flies back from Bucharest to London.
EASY AND FLEXIBLE BOOKING

• Can rail and flight tickets be booked on the same website or through the same distributor? (*Is train & plane as easy as Zug & Flug?*)

• If you miss the intermodal connection, is your ticket valid on the next train or flight?

• What are the implications for European Passenger Rights?

• What if you want to fly out and come back by train? (”*You can, but it’ll cost you!”*)
CONCLUSION

• Wherever possible, customers should have a choice.
• Customers vary; journeys vary – but clear information is essential for all.
• There is also scope for co-operation between ALL train and plane operators.

• *Thank you for your attention!*