

Business travellers call upon the governments of France, Spain and Portugal to improve their international connections by rail

12 June 2025

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

More and more businesses are committing themselves to significantly reduce their climate emissions. However, transport remains a major obstacle to this, both in terms of corporate travel and freight operations. **Choosing to travel by train instead of by plane can reduce emissions more than 90% for some connections.**¹

However, the lack of competitive international connections between France, Spain and Portugal complicates the efforts by businesses operating in those countries to fly less, and to choose less polluting modes of transport like the train. For instance, we have learned that the plan to reopen the Toulouse-Barcelona connection has been cancelled and that the rest of Renfe's services in France are at risk due to delays in approvals affecting their ability to serve connections to Paris.

As representatives of companies across Europe we call for investment in the railway connectivity and reliability between these countries, to enable us to take our climate and sustainability commitments seriously, while strengthening our economic ties.

Concretely, we call on the governments of France, Spain and Portugal to:

- **Advance implementation of the European TEN-T regulation** and accelerate the completion of its key international connections in order to help companies shift their business travel and freight to rail.
- Create **financial incentives and public guarantees** to help rail operators acquire **interoperable cross-border rolling stock**
- Champion the EU initiative for an ambitious **Single Digital Booking and Ticketing Regulation** to enable seamless booking of cross-border and multi-operator rail journeys.

Improved railway connections between the three countries will reduce costs and travel times while improving reliability, boosting the competitiveness of our industries and fostering stronger relations. At the same, it will allow us to transport both people and goods in a more sustainable manner.

This is the spirit of the **Clean Industrial Deal**, aimed at helping European businesses thrive on a global scale while advancing the green transition. **We count on your support to provide the connectivity needed for these objectives to be realised.**

¹ <https://travelsmartcampaign.org/rail-first/>

Yours sincerely,



With the support of:

