



# CONNECTING THE MEGAREGION VIA IMPROVED RAILWAY TRANSPORT

SJ is trying to bring us into the future of personal transport, with direct train connections between major cities of Northern Europe in 2027. We applaud this move, taken by SJ, directing the megaregion on the right path towards net-zero transport as we know, for a fact, that trains are the safest, most environmental and climate friendly form of transport there is. The invention of railways, however, lies hundreds of years in the past, and the race towards a zero-emission society has begun decades ago. Despite these great improvements led by SJ, we are left with one significant question: Why do we have to wait four years to see direct train connections between the major cities of Northern Europe?

1. **Transport geocentrism** - All nations plan transport within their national borders. The reality is that freight and people move across borders.
2. **Short term perspectives in transport infrastructure** - For the past generation, there has been little will to build for the future, and undertake the railway development as we should have.
3. **No alignment of regulation** - While trucks and planes can move freely between Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway, we have yet to streamline the technical requirements for locomotives crossing borders.

The population of Northern Europe are demanding solutions for the climate crisis. And the solution for climate friendly transport is right here, in front of us. While silo-thinking in national transport ministries hampers the development of a seamless, low emission, cross border transport system, STRING welcomes the efforts of transportation companies like SJ and pilot services by the EU Commission that drive progress forward. In addition, STRING calls for an international transport commission to be institutionalised, so that we can let the trains play their part in decarbonising the transport sector.



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