

Janusz Poliński: European Year of Rail Train

The year 2021 was announced the European Year of Rail by the European Commission. One of the events connected with the celebrations was the launch of the Connecting Europe Express – a special train promoting railways as the most environmentally friendly means of transport. The 20,000-kilometre route of the train passed through the territories of most EU countries, as well as Switzerland, Serbia and Northern Macedonia. Due to the different track gauges used in Europe, the standard gauge train was replaced on the Lisbon – Madrid – Hendaye route by an Iberian train consisting of six Talgo carriages, supplied by Spanish railways. On the Tallinn – Riga – Vilnius - Kaunas section, a Baltic train supplied by Lithuanian railways ran. The train journey was accompanied by meetings of persons responsible for transport, scientists and railwaymen, who discussed important issues related to the simplification of railway operation, both from the legal and technical side. The event lasted 36 days and ended on 7 November 2021 in Paris.

Keywords: rail transport, European Year of Rail, Connecting Europe Express