

April 2008 - EUROPEAN NEWS

26 April 2008

Germany

The biennial international air show ILA 2008 is scheduled to take place at Berlin Schonefeld airport from May 27 to June 1. The first 3 days are for trade visitors only. After that it is open to the general public. As in previous years, a shuttle service will operate to the special airport station, ILA Bahnhof, which is on the freight-only branch to the south of the normal Schonefeld airport station. As the branch is not electrified, diesel traction of some sort is required. Two sets of stock are required to operate the hourly shuttle service from Berlin Lichtenberg.

For timings etc see here: <http://www.ila-berlin>. Travel on these trains is free.

General

A collision occurred between a car and a train at the Grensstraat level crossing in Nispen between Essen & Roosendaal on at around 17:30 Saturday 19th April, the crash left the 51 year old car driver dead.

The car caught fire and caused damage to the class 11XX electric loco, which was working "an international train" from Brussels.

More info and pictures can be found at:

<http://www.metronieuws.nl/index.php?actie=nieuws&c=2&id=120478>

16 April 2008

Spain

The gauge changer just east of Valladolid has now opened and is used by all Norte Alvia trains, except 4167 and 4181 which continue to use Valdestillas. T151/152 now run from Olmedo to the gauge changer at Medina del Campo. Also opened is the gauge changer north of Chamartin which has enabled the resumption of through Gijon/Santander to Alicante services in time for the summer season.

The underground cercanias station at Malaga Centro Alameda has been closed for renewal with all trains from Fuengirola now running to and terminating at Malaga Maria Zambrano.

Work is alleged to have finally started on the C2 line from Sevilla to Cartuja, projected to open this autumn

France

After extended trials SNCF are finally to run their TER200 services push/pull with a Sybic and a DVT. One timetable change effected from 21 April is the diversion of 96204 via Sarrebourg (reverse).

After a 6 month closure freight traffic has resumed on the St Brieuc to Loudeac branch. Unfortunately there are no plans at present to resume the passenger service, suspended since 2006.

Belgium

The DB class 186 electrics do indeed also carry their SNCB numbers (2801 – 2803) as they have been viewed in service.

An order has been placed with Siemens for 300 Desiro ML EMUs to finally see off their older designs, and probably some loco hauled too, with deliveries expected to commence from 2011

9 April 2008

General

A special Interail "2 country" pass will be available to coincide with Euro 2008. The InterRail Austria / Switzerland Pass is valid for 3, 4, 6 or 8 days of travel in a one month period and covers travel in both countries. Prices start at £148 for a 3-day standard class adult pass.

First class options are also available. They are available for sale until 30 June 2008 for travel between 1 May and 31 July 2008. Passes can be booked up to 2 months in advance of the first date of travel.

Passes are available for children (aged 4-11), youths (aged 12-25) and adults (aged 26+) First class options are available on adult and child passes but not on youth passes.

4 April 2008

Austria

It is reported, on April 1st so I'm always dubious, that the original **1116017** and **1116062** have both been scrapped. Both locos were heavily damaged in separate incidents a few years ago. Apparently they are building 2 new locos to replace them which will carry the respective original numbers.

Portugal

Official confirmation, from CP, has been received that English Electric locomotive 1805 (class 50 look alike) will be available for special trains later this year! The locomotive (along with **9004**, **E214** and **0186**) are now owned and operated by the National Museum at Entroncamento.

PTG Tours will be using **1805** as part of their 10th Anniversary tour on 2nd February 2009. The planned route being Barreiro - Faro - Vila Real - Faro -Pinhal Novo - Lisbon Oriente.

France

Again from April 1st, the X2800 railcars are still going strong in Besançon today they did the 07:13 Besançon to Morteau, the 11:37 return, then the 16:35 to Le Valdahon and (on the 2nd) the 06:44 back to Besançon.

Germany

Thanks to Pressnitzalbahn the 1st May offers an excellent photo opportunity for fans of the V100 series diesel locomotives, with 3 of the series working between Schwarzenberg and the Anna Mountain.

Locomotives 112326 (202326), 112646 (202646) and 112516 (202516) will all be used on trains of 'car parts' over the route. Although 112516 is currently un-serviceable, it will be added to train sets to give the impression of 'double heading' or 'banking'. Participation (whatever that includes) in the day will cost 65 Euro. Further information can be found at <http://www.v100-online.de/Mai2008.pdf>