


Inauguration of Antwerp Central and Liège Guillemins

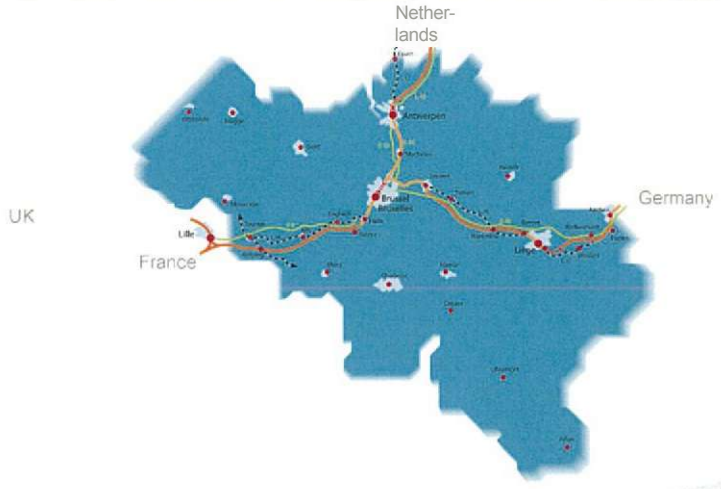
Two major stations in the very heart of the European high-speed rail network

September 2009



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The high-speed rail network in Belgium, from border to border, by Infrabel!




UK

France

Netherlands

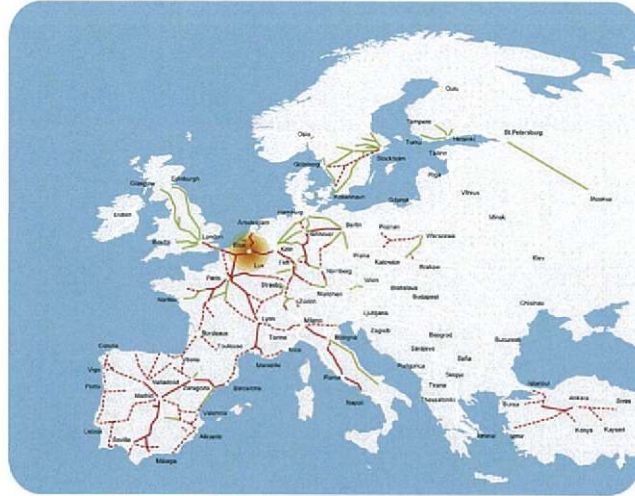
Germany

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Belgium is the hub of the European high-speed rail network



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The high-speed rail network makes Belgium the centre of Europe



- Brussels - Paris: 1 hour, 22 minutes by Thalys
- Brussels - Amsterdam in approx. 1 hour, 46 minutes as of 2010
- Brussels - Germany by ICE and Thalys
 - Brussels - Cologne: 1 hour, 57 minutes by ICE
 - Brussels - Frankfurt: 3 hours, 4 minutes by ICE
- Brussels - London: 1 hour, 51 minutes by Eurostar
- Brussels - Marseilles: 5 hours by TGV

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Investments in high speed pay off for domestic rail network

- Doubling of the tracks between Brussels - Louvain and Brussels - Hal
- Modernized stations and stops in several places {Brussels - Louvain line, Hai etc.)
- Fast domestic trains use HST tracks (Antwerp - the Netherlands, Louvain - Brussels)
- Doubling of the capacity of Antwerp Central station
- Opening up of the region north of Antwerp
 - Creation of through tracks via a tunnel
 - Additional station in the Noorderkempen region
- Optimization of train traffic in Liège
 - new configuration of tracks with less crossings
- Improvement of the rail connection to and from the national airport

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Investments in several stations on the rail network

- Management contract 2008/2012:
 - Stations: 660 million euro
 - Car parks: 228 million euro
 - REN (regional express network): 158 million euro
- 11 major stations renovated
- 8 major stations being renovated
- 16 renovation projects for major stations
- » + a large number of renovation and new building projects in other stations



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The three stations that will accommodate high-speed trains in Belgium



Brussels Midi



Liège Guillemins



Antwerp Central

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Brussels South, the pioneer



- First international station in Belgium
- 1994: Eurostar terminal is opened
- 1996: Thalys terminal is opened
- 2004: Inauguration of shopping mall (62 outlets)
- Operators: Belgian National Railways (SNCB), Thalys, Eurostar, ICE/DB, TGV



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Liège Guillemins. prestigious architecture



- 1998: start of work on a station designed by the Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava
- The station, built from white concrete, steel, glass and Belgian natural stone, is also a technological feat of engineering - it was built without having to interrupt train traffic. The station is also a development hub for Liège and the Liège region
- Operators: Belgian National Railways (SNCB), Thalys, ICE/DB
- Total cost of investment in Liège-Guillemins: 312 million euro (437 million including railway infrastructure)

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Antwerp Central past, present and future



- "The fourth most beautiful in the world" according to Newsweek
- Exceptionally successful integration of modern railway functions within an historic building
- Technological feat of engineering: the engineers turned the terminal station into a through station by building a tunnel under the city
- The central building dates from 1905 and is an example of exceptional Belgian national heritage
- Operators: Belgian National Railways (SNCB), Thalys
- Total cost of investment in Antwerp-Central: 404 million euro (775 million including railway infrastructure)

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The role of the station

The station plays a major role in mobility

The station plays a major role in sustainable development

The station plays a major role in urban life

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Branding the Station'



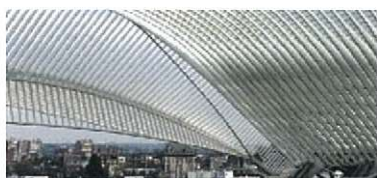
- No time to lose: a train journey should start in a well-organized environment in which it is easy to find your way without wasting any time. Appropriate signs should provide useful information where needed. The station ensures a smooth transition from the car or other form of transport to the train.
- Meeting place: something is always going on in the station. Hardly a day goes by without one event or another taking place in a station. An increasing number of shops, cafes and restaurants create an even more pleasant atmosphere. Investing in more comfort and safety renders stations even more attractive as meeting places.
- Saving time: an increasing number of services are available at stations. Travellers have access to a varied range of shops and services thus making their journey easy to combine with shopping.

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Timetable of festivities



Liège Guillemins
18 September official opening
19-20 September: open house



Antwerp Central
25 September official opening
26 September open house