

NEWSLINES

Following the introduction of new European rail schedules on December 11, we have now been able to update tables for those countries that we were unable to complete in time for the Winter edition, most notably in Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia. In the Italian section, all long-distance trains have now been checked and updated, but regional services remain subject to confirmation. We will be updating all Italian regional tables over the coming weeks and intend to have the section fully updated by the time the next printed edition is published in March. Many tables in the Winter edition were compiled using advance data, so we have now started the process of rechecking all of our tables to ensure that any late amendments are included in subsequent editions. This will take a few weeks to complete so readers are advised to continue checking any travel plans as there are likely to be some further adjustments to timings and running dates shown in our tables, but we expect most will be of a minor nature.

INTERNATIONAL

We understand that RENFE (Spanish Railways) may reinstate its international high-speed services Madrid – Barcelona – Marseille (*AVE 19725/19730*) and Barcelona – Lyon (*AVE 10737/10742*) as early as Monday January 16 (Tables 13 and 657). The Marseille train will initially run four days a week, departing Madrid at 1325, returning from Marseille at 0803. The Lyon service will run Mondays to Fridays, departing Barcelona at 0822, returning from Lyon at 1435. Both services are expected to run daily from May 24.

The *Kulturzug/Pociąg do Kultury* service between Berlin and Wrocław was suspended from January 2. We await confirmation of the date when it will return, possibly during the spring (Tables 58 and 1086).

European Sleeper Coöperatie U.A. has announced its overnight service will commence from May 25 between Brussels and Berlin via Amsterdam (Table 78). The service is expected to be extended to Dresden and Praha from December 2023 (this is not currently possible due to ongoing engineering work in the Czech Republic limiting the number of trains that can use the route).

In a late timetable change, the overnight service Stuttgart – Venezia (*NJ 237/236*), Zagreb (*EN 40237/414*) and Budapest (*EN 50237/50462*) does not now serve München Hbf. However, it continues to call at München Ost in both directions (Tables 62, 65, 70, 890 and 930).

GREAT BRITAIN

The opening of a new station at Inverness Airport did not take place on December 11, as reported in last month's Newslines (Table 225). The revised opening date for the station is now January 21.

FRANCE

While rechecking TER schedules in the Hauts-de-France and Normandie regions (Tables 251–277) we noticed a number of changes compared to information published in the Winter edition, most notably that some trains during the middle part of the day do not run and that certain evening peak trains only run on Fridays. In addition, services between Boulogne and Calais (Table 261) are operated by bus until February 5 (please check locally for amended timings).

The validity of the current Corsican Railways timetable has been extended to February 26 (Table 369).

NETHERLANDS

New schedules in the Netherlands saw a general reduction in the number of services operating on certain routes, particularly on Fridays to Sundays. Unfortunately we did not manage to include all of these changes in time for the Winter edition meaning a number of tables were not showing the correct timetable, for which we must apologise. However, all tables have now been fully checked and updated and, to better show the amended service patterns, we have made a number of structural changes to certain tables. Note that the service between Dordrecht and Lelystad via Amsterdam Zuid (which no longer runs at weekends), has been moved from Table 460 to a new Table 452.

SPAIN

The Madrid – Orihuela high-speed line extension to Murcia was inaugurated on December 20 with the three existing high-speed *AVE* services between Madrid and Orihuela extended to Murcia, together with the addition of a fourth service between the cities (Table 668). RENFE (Spanish Railways) has also introduced up to ten *Avant* local high-speed services in each direction between Alicante and Murcia which have been added to an expanded panel below Table 672.

Intercity services between Barcelona and València have been retimed, including train **697/694 Torre del Oro** Barcelona – València – Sevilla – Cádiz, timings for which will be found in Tables **661, 668, 671, 672, 672a** and **678**.

Early morning weekend services on the Plasencia – Mérida – Badajoz axis have been retimed (Tables **677** and **678**). The first *Alvia* service from Madrid to Salamanca has also been retimed on Saturdays and Sundays (Table **679**).

Rail services between Canfranc and Huesca have resumed following the completion of route upgrade work (Table **670**).

In order to include Murcia in Table **668**, we have had to make a number of table number changes. The Madrid – Cartagena table, previously **668a**, has been moved to page 325 and renumbered **672b**. The Granada – Málaga / Córdoba – Sevilla table, previously **673**, has been moved to page 327 and renumbered **678a** (the previous Table **678a**, Barcelona / Madrid – Granada, has been removed as these journeys are already shown in Table **660**).

PORTUGAL

For the first time in several years, CP (Portuguese Railways) issued a general timetable revision on December 11 alongside most of the rest of Europe. Unfortunately, the new schedules were received too late for inclusion in the Winter edition, but the Portuguese section has now been fully updated with the revised schedules.

NORWAY

A brand new 22-kilometre double-track line, mostly in tunnel, between Oslo and Ski was opened on December 11. With a maximum permitted speed of 200 km/h journey times on the Oslo – Halden – Göteborg route were initially reduced by around ten minutes. However, a serious technical issue arose, resulting in the line being closed a few days later. As a result, trains are currently being diverted via the original route with extended journey times. It is hoped the tunnel will reopen by February 1 when the faster journey times will be restored. We have added an appropriate warning to Table **770** with regards to amended timings at Oslo while the problem with the new infrastructure is being resolved.

GERMANY

A small number of long-distance trains on the Köln – Koblenz – Mainz – Mannheim – Stuttgart route have been temporarily withdrawn from early January, but are due to be reinstated from April (Tables **800** and **912**).

Services between Görlitz and Zittau are partially operated by bus (between Hagenwerda and Zittau) until June 10. Table **854** has been updated with amended timings.

POLAND

Many Szczecin – Rzepin – Poznań – Warszawa *InterCity* services in Table **1003** have been switched to the more direct route via Krzyż (Table **1010**).

CZECH REPUBLIC

In last month's Tables **60** and **1100**, *RJ 258/9 Vindobona* Graz – Wien – Praha was shown as running to and from Děčín, but this subsequently turned out not to be the case at this present time. However, the Děčín extension is expected to commence from July 1 when the service will be renumbered **256/7**.

SLOVAKIA

We have rechecked all of our Slovakian tables against recently updated information and there have been a number of minor timing and train number changes. In Table **1180**, most *Ex* trains between Bratislava and Košice have had calls at Margecany added (these calls were not shown in earlier versions of the timetables). Owing to a compiling error, we included some trains between Starý Smokovec and Tatranská Lomnica in Table **1182** which are not currently running, so we have removed them for the time being. We will reinstate them once a date for the start of these services has been announced.

TURKEY

TCDD (Turkish Railways) has once again recast its high-speed schedules (Table **1570**). Timings of some long-distance express trains have also been adjusted, along with most regional services.

A much reduced service is currently running on the busy Mersin to Adana route (Table **1585**). This is due to route upgrade work taking place which is part of the long-term Mersin – Adana – Osmaniye – Gaziantep – Şanlıurfa high-speed project.