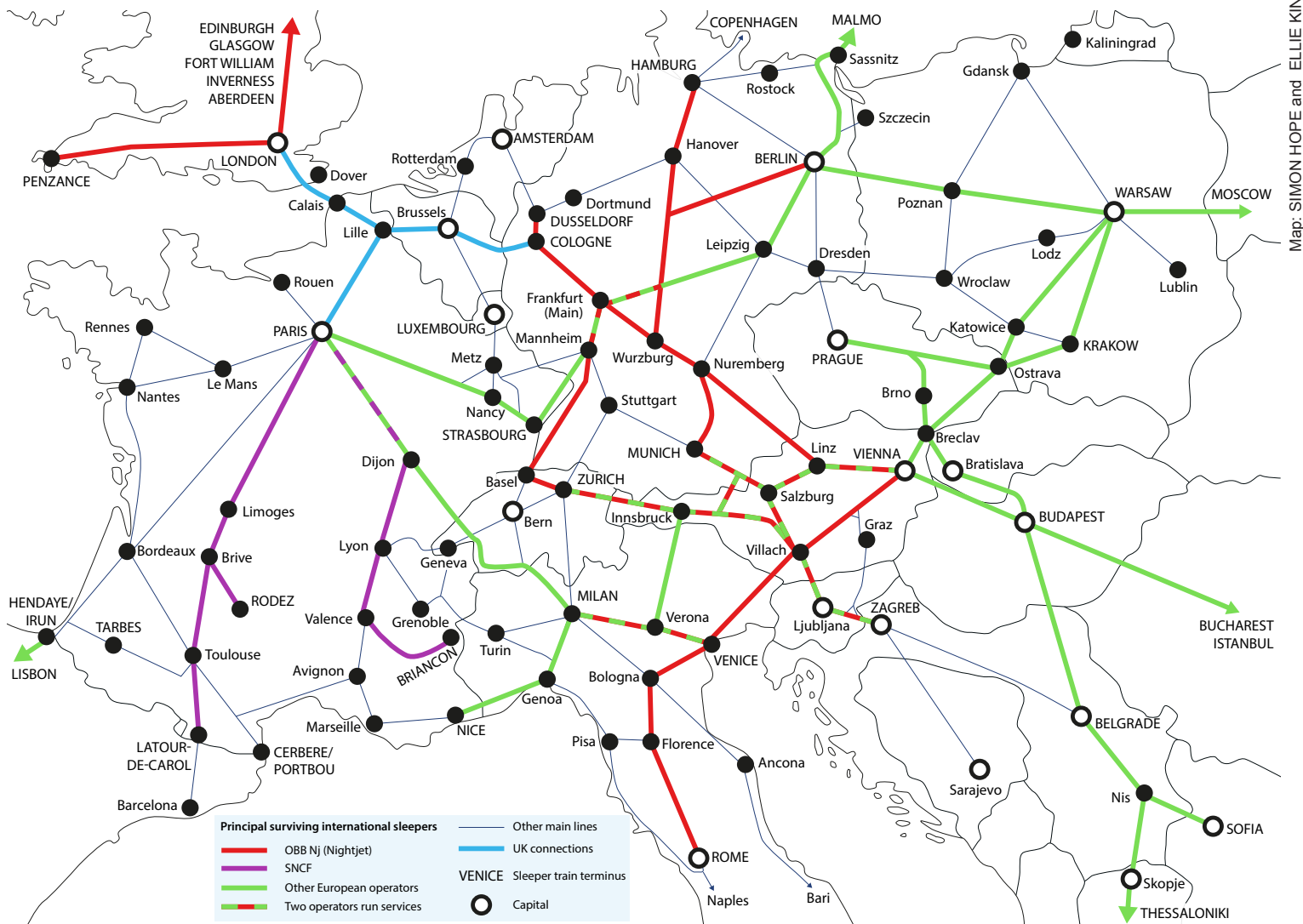


Travel by night to save a day



Map: SIMON HOPE and ELLIE KING

The European night train network as it is in 2018

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At the end of 2016 Austrian Railways (OBB) took over most of the classic overnight sleeper services from German Railways (DB), operating them under the brand name Nightjet. This has been a success, but other international and domestic night trains face an uncertain future, despite widespread protest campaigns in many countries to prevent important remaining traditional routes from being axed.

Many night trains are perceived by operators to be uneconomic, under-used and no match for high speed and other fast trains. When a large amount of public money has been invested in a high speed line, the temptation is to use it as much as possible for high speed trains during the day.

It is also claimed that night trains have low occupancy rates. The opposite is true on most services. Also, contrary to some official opinion, they are popular with the public. For years, there has been a lack of information and publicity about

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