The Ramble
580 of 10th September 2026

Monday 14th September	[581]
Monday 21st September	Holiday [Innotrans]
Monday 28th September	Holiday
Monday 5th October	Holiday [Salzinnes Works Open Day on 04.10.26]
Monday 12th October	[582]
Monday 19th October	[583]
Monday 26th October	[584]
Monday 2nd November	[585]
Monday 9th November	[586]
Monday 16th November	[587]
Monday 23rd November	[588]
Monday 30th November	[589]
Monday 7th December	[590]
Monday 14th December	[591]
Monday 21st December	[592]
Monday 28th December	[593]

For The Diary 2026

If you know of an event, let me know and I will put it here.

Raildagen 18th & 19th September 2026

https://raildagen.nl/

Friday 18th sees guided tours of the Wagon Works at Amersfoort.
Friday 18th and Saturday 19th sees an Open Day at the Havenstraat Tram Sheds

Luxembourg Depot Open Day

There is a free Open Day at Luxembourg Depot on Saturday 19th September 2026.

https://groupe.cfl.lu/en-gb/news/detail/portes-ouvertes-2026

Stoomtrein Maldegem-Eeklo – 5508 Running day – 20th September 2026

https://stoomtreinmaldegem.be/nl/evenementen-2026/20-september-2026-rij-mee-met-de-5508/

De Lijn – Antwerpen PCC Tram Event – 26th September 2026

The website is https://www.150jaartram.be/afscheid-pcc-trams

Stoom Stichting Nederland

Stoom Stichting Nederland are holding their stoomtreindagen on the 3rd and 4th October. Between 09.00 and 17.00 everyone is welcome to visit their site. There will be steam hauled trains between the depot site and Gouda NS. The assumption is that 01.1075 and/or 23.023 will feature.

Details at www.StoomStichting.nl

Open Day at Mechelen and Salzinnes Works – Sunday 4th October 2026

You have to reserve a ticket to visit and reservations are open. The ticket is free but you have state a time slot in which you wish to go round.

Both works are open 10:00 until 17:00.

The application is only in French or Nederlands, but I used Google Chrome translated the text perfectly to enable you to complete the application in English.

With each application you can have more than one person.

www.openbedrijvendag.be/bedrijven/nmbs/

Open Door Day at Eurostar in Brussels on 4 October

On Sunday, October 4, Eurostar is holding an Open Door Day in honour of 30 years of high-speed Brussels-Paris. Those interested in Eurostar can take a look behind the scenes in Brussels and visit the following:

OCC (Operational Control Centre): from here, Eurostar manages all trains across the entire network, serving as many as around 50,000 passengers per day. Visitors will receive an explanation and a guided tour from our experts and can discover how the entire train traffic is managed across the 6 different networks. The OCC ensures that every train runs safely and on schedule, that information reaches passengers in a timely manner, and that maintenance and personnel are optimally planned during incidents. They will gain insight into how the team collaborates with infrastructure managers and railway partners in various countries, how decisions are made during disruptions, and how an international timetable is monitored.

Train simulator: here, visitors have the chance to sit behind a train simulator and discover how to drive on the different networks (different voltages, different systems, speeds, dead man's switch, etc.). There is also, of course, time to discover the different types of Eurostar trains and ask our train drivers questions.

Registration here: https://www.openbedrijvendag.be/bedrijven/eurostar/

Belgische Nachrichten
Nouvelles belges
Belgisch Nieuws

Mechelen & Salzinnes Works

www.openbedrijvendag.be/bedrijven/nmbs/

You have to reserve a ticket to visit. The ticket is free but you have state a time slot in which you wish to go round. Both works are open 10:00 until 17:00.

On the 4th October both Mechelen and Salzinnes Works have Open Days. These are not “Railway” Open Days but National “Factory” Open Days that B-Technics are participating in. So other Namur companies that make undersea equipment, ones that press out pet food bowls etc will may also be open. It is why Eurostar are opening at Brussel Vorst/Forest on the same day.

So if you are expecting something with stalls selling railway stuff [mugs etc], exhibits of rolling stock, something for the little ones etc then this may not happen. I only found out by chance what was being planned.

May be a more workday scene like this will be visible and not an ice cream van. With the general lack of information, we may only actually know what is happening in the week before or when we walk in through the gates on Sunday 4th October 2026.



9147 in the company of one car from 4167 at Salzinnes on 10th November 2025.

Yves Bucci - https://flickr.com/photos/201201059@N08/55460869372

HLE 13

After the Revision Dates on 1312#, 1313, 1319, 1323, 1348# & 1354#
[# In Salzinnes Works].

1312 is at Salzinnes Works for an Intermediate Revision. Back in mid September.
1313 on repair at Antwerpen Noord after colliding with a car on the Athus Meuse Line.
1322 the Revision Date I have [06/06/14] must be wrong.
1333 is at Salzinnes for repair after a collision with a truck in France on 27/02/25.
1333 has a new nose recovered from another 13 and is getting a repaint.
1348 is at Salzinnes Works for an Intermediate Revision.
1354 is at Salzinnes Works for an Intermediate Revision.

HLE 17

1707 is now in production at Kassel Works so Alstom are really cracking on with them. With a diverse supply chain, once the production starts then it has to continue.

1703 and 1704 are also at Kassel perhaps for retrofit work.

It is also worth mentioning that negotiations are ongoing to sell the Kassel Works Site to defence company Rheinmetall with a decision expected before the end of September.

https://railwaynews.net/alstom-confirms-kassel-locomotive-plant-sale-talks.html

Large factory with thick floors and good overhead cranes. Just what you need to build military vehicles along with a workforce that is used to large vehicles and precision work.

This is what Trump and his sycophants are not getting. Governments and Companies are doing this all over the world and are starting home grown production. They will spend more on defence, but not US defence contractors, and will steadily bypass the USA. Even the EU is actively moving away from Visa and Mastercard as the President of the USA can stop these companies dealing with whoever he wants.

So a company like Alstom can move production to somewhere else and a defence company gets a site that is oven ready for what they want. There are also a lot of skilled workers looking for a job.

The problem for Alstom is the workforce at Kassel is very skilled and are very skilled at building TRAXX. People at Board Level think that with adequate work instructions, the work can be transferred and a new plant can just carry on. There will be a drop in the rate of production for a short while whilst the new plant gets to grip with building TRAXX 3 locomotives. Things will improve after this transition phase.

This is the same Alstom that elected to build a large order of a proven product in a repurposed tram building factory in Poland. What could possibly go wrong?

HLE 18/19

Interested in the Intermediate Revision dates on
1813#, 1826#, 1829, 1842#, 1847, 1853#, 1875# [# In Salzinnes Works].

1813 may be in for an Intermediate Revision at Salzinnes.
Due out around the time of the Open Day.
1826 may be in for an Intermediate Revision at Salzinnes. Due out late October.
1829 is back in service after a probable Revision.
1842 may be in for an Intermediate Revision at Salzinnes. Due out early October.
1853 is in Salzinnes for an RIK2 revision. Back mid September.
1874 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
1875 is back in service after an Intermediate Revision.
1902 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
1905 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
1914 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
1918 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.
1923 is in Salzinnes for ETCS works.

1824 Revision Date



1908 Revision Date



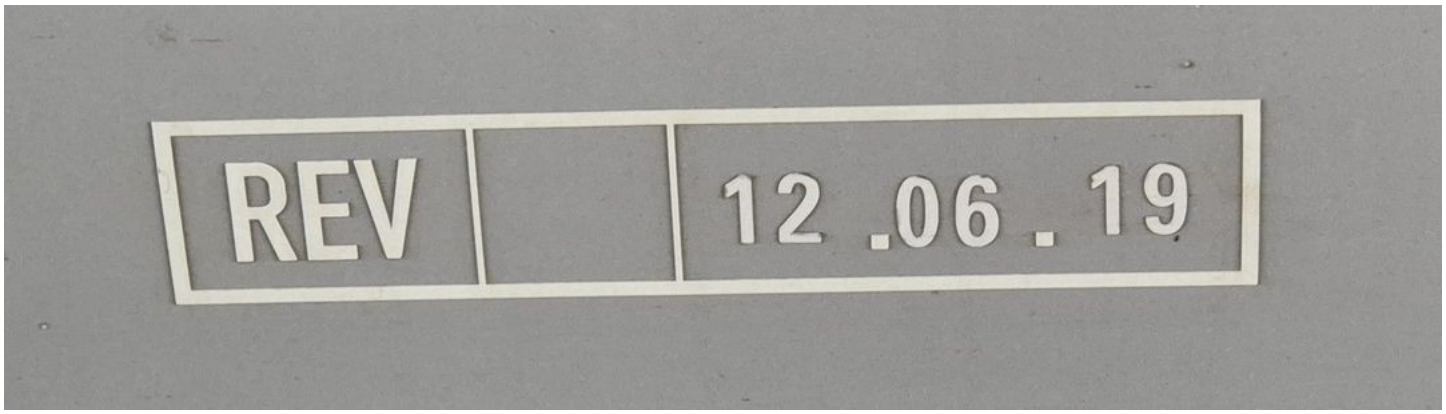
1808’s is currently on 9.3 years since it’s 2017 Revision



1907 has been in Salzinnes for ages and I expected to find a 2026 Revision Date on it when I caught up with it at Antwerpen on 26th August.



Nope!



HLE 27

On 8th September Huib visited Sosnowiec Jezor and Bor. In Bor were 10 x HLE 21. These are ten out of twelve engines who were shipped to Poland in 2022.

Whilst visiting the KoL-System site Huib saw that cutting the locomotives there has started. First 2747 was being cut and the next in line was 2751. These were the loco's with the automatic coupler. Behind 2751 was 2725 and then 2728.

A guard, or employee, first said something to me but left me for a few moments doing my thing. He then escorted me from the site in a friendly way.

He told me that the row which was sat in Jaworzno were all cut up. I assume at this location since they can reach this location without using PKP tracks.

On the same site the 2 x HLE21 sit, they will be cut up too as I asked this guy and he said yes. And I assume the 10 locos sitting in Bor will follow than too.


FUCHS
CARGOUNIT
2747 Sosnowiec Jęzor
September 08, 2026
© Huib den Dulk


FUCHS
340
2747 Sosnowiec Jęzor
September 08, 2026
© Huib den Dulk





I would like to thank Huib for taking the time out to visit and take these photographs.

Class 188

Lineas have 188 120 for staff training purposes in advance of more of the Class being leased to the company to replace the D/B/F TRAXX they currently use.

HLR 77/78

7701 is at Salzinnes for repairs to collision damage after a shunting accident with 7705.
7705 is under repair at Salzinnes Works after a shunting accident with 7701.
7710 is back in service.
7736 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.
7754 is back in service after ETCS fitting.
7759 is back in service after ETCS fitting.
7760 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.
7763 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.
7764 is back in service after ETCS fitting.
7766 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.
7774 is at Voith Turbo, Kiel for Revision.
7775 is at Salzinnes for Revision.
7778 is at Salzinnes for Revision.
7783 had a collision with a truck on Monday 7th that then caught fire. See here
7787 is back in service after ETCS fitting.
7838 is at Antwerpen Noord after level crossing collision damage
7861 is at Salzinnes Works for ETCS fitting.

AR/MW 41

https://www.tvl.be/nieuws/laatste-rit-voor-dieseltrein-van-nmbs-in-limburg-182884

There was a special train from Hasselt to Melle on Tuesday 8th September to deliver six AR/MW 41s to their new home at Melle. The units have been at Hasselt for around twenty five years and some of the staff have spent their whole working time at B-Technics working on them. Some were very sad to see them go as that is what they knew.

Marcad keeps a list of Revision Dates for the units and he has supplied this list of AR/MW Revision Dates.

White	The Revision Dates Marcad has personally observed.
Yellow	Revision Dates Iain has estimated.
Red	Withdrawn
Orange	Date of last passenger working
#	Order of leaving Salzinnes

Between eight and fourteen will be stopped this autumn and either sold or scrapped.
Withdrawn – 4102, 4166, 4175 & 4182 [4] [4102 is heavily robbed of parts]
Not Overhauled – 4135, 4177 & 4187 [3]
Up to six more of the worst condition or longest hours ones may also be stopped.
At the same time as some overhauled ones are going to be withdrawn, 4181 is being overhauled at Salzinnes!
4133 has not worked since 24/03/24 and is at Salzinnes.

#1	4133	03/07/15	#36	4191	03/11/20	#71	4105	04/09/24
#2	4101	08/04/16	#37	4121	26/01/21	#72	4145	30/09/24
#3	4127	23/05/16	#38	4194	02/03/21	#73	4106	31/10/24
#4	4139	27/09/16	#39	4111	09/04/21	#74	4164	19/12/24
#5	4132	21/12/16	#40	4119	18/05/21	#75	4154	22/01/25
#6	4134	24/02/17	#41	4184	25/06/21	#76	4159	26/03/25
#7	4137	17/05/17	#42	4142	04/08/21	#77	4158	28/03/25
#8	4130	16/06/17	#43	4192	08/09/21	#78	4160	17/06/25
#9	4136	07/09/17	#44	4152	15/10/21	#79	4188	23/09/25
#10	4108	27/10/17	#45	4185	17/11/21	#75	4154	22/01/25
#11	4140	30/11/17	#46	4110	24/12/21	#76	4159	26/03/25
#12	4161	19/01/18	#47	4156	27/01/22	#77	4158	28/03/25
#13	4138	02/03/18	#48	4196	04/03/22	#78	4160	17/06/25
#14	4141	13/04/18	#49	4148	08/04/22	#79	4188	23/09/25
#15	4124	30/05/18	#50	4179	12/05/22	#80	4169	18/12/25
#16	4162	12/07/18	#51	4114	17/06/22	#81	4103	27/02/26
#17	4174	10/09/18	#52	4146	01/08/22	#82	4123	24/04/26
#18	4171	19/10/18	#53	4107	09/09/22	#83	4167	11/06/26
#19	4180	29/11/18	#54	4190	06/10/22	#84	4195	11/08/26
#20	4178	25/01/19	#55	4153	07/12/22	#85	4109	06/10/26
#21	4173	04/03/19	#56	4151	12/01/23	#86	4168	12/11/26
#22	4170	29/03/19	#57	4116	07/02/23	#87	4181	13/01/27
#23	4193	20/05/19	#58	4120	15/03/23	#88	4177	10/03/27
#24	4189	21/06/19	#59	4126	21/04/23			
#25	4172	25/07/19	#60	4186	26/05/23		4135	10/09/26
#26	4163	03/09/19	#61	4155	29/06/23		4187	10/09/26
#27	4122	11/10/19	#62	4104	24/08/23			
#28	4129	20/11/19	#63	4128	29/09/23	Wdn	4102	06/10/25
#29	4118	20/01/20	#64	4147	26/10/23	Wdn	4117	Cut Up
#30	4157	17/02/20	#65	4112	27/11/23	Wdn	4131	Cut Up
#31	4183	08/04/20	#66	4165	26/01/24	Wdn	4166	06/10/25
#32	4176	29/05/20	#67	4143	01/03/24	Wdn	4175	06/10/25
#33	4115	03/07/20	#68	4149	08/05/24	Wdn	4182	06/10/25
#34	4113	28/08/20	#69	4150	21/06/24			
#35	4125	08/10/20	#70	4144	18/07/24			

4137... no date on it. 4106 has not a full date.
4154 has the wrong year in the RG date = 22-01-24 (note also on it : PUH 20 FAZ 11/24)

Lokeren

Some background

https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2026/08/19/nmbs-geen-dieseltreinen-tussen-lokeren-en-ronse/

M5 52558, 52570, 52536, 52567, 52554 & 52587 were parked in a line at Lokeren station and were there for sound reasons. Due to a lack of electric units or more spare MW 41 that NMBS can shake a pointed stick at, there have been MW41s working from Gent to Lokeren on the stopping trains. A neighbour has complained about the noise from the engines whilst the train lays over at Lokeren. So NMBS/SNCB has place a line of M5 coaches at Lokeren as a noise barrier. Chocolate and fire guard spring to mind.

Infrabel have now placed a wall of containers as a noise barrier. Personally I would take the noise of the trains instead of looking at that yellow wall.

https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/kijk/2026/09/01/video-nmbs-plaatst-containers-om-geluid-te-dempen-in-station-lok/

Kortrijk

https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/nl/2026/09/05/station-kortrijk-beschermd-erfgoed/

Some good news is that hopefully the 1951 station buildings have been saved. They have been under the threat of demolition for a few years now and hopefully they will remain so.

733

On my way from my hotel in Namur to my hotel in Belval I passed this unit sat at the far north of the sidings at Athus. It must have developed a fault whilst being transported for scrap and was there when I passed in August 2025. The numbers were covered in graffiti and I could not get the number as I went past on the train.

So on Thursday 20th August I caught a train to Athus and walked up the road to where I thought it was. There was a convenient hole in the hedge and as I walked through it there was 733. As you can see all the windows have been smashed and it is covered in graffiti.

To rescue it will be interesting as it will need another unit to top and tail it with two locos at each end to provide the power. A through air pipe will be needed as I suspect 733 will leak air. Then there is the problem of whatever fault caused it to be abandoned here. Perhaps a wheel skate will be needed. However things will need to happen soon as the number of units of this type is limited now to use as translator vehicles and poor 733 will be developing more faults due to being stood. Road access is limited and lifting 733 off it’s bogies and moving away by road will be expensive and difficult.





Norichten aus Lëtzebuerg

Class 3000

The last day of 48764/65 Bettembourg - Kinkempois with CFL 3018/3020 [and I assume the last day of the CFL 3000s in CFL service].
Photograph by Kaleb Spatz at Esneux on Sunday 30th August 2026.

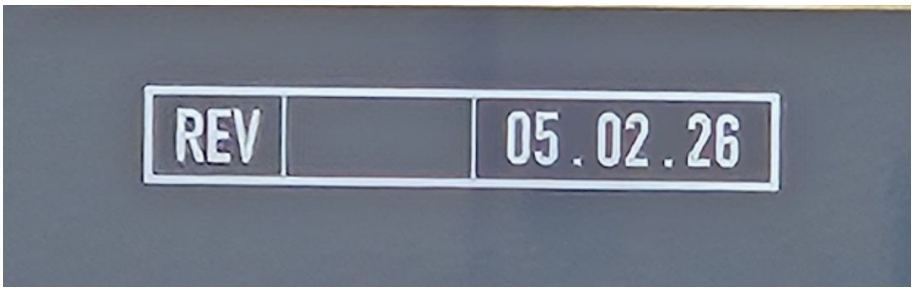




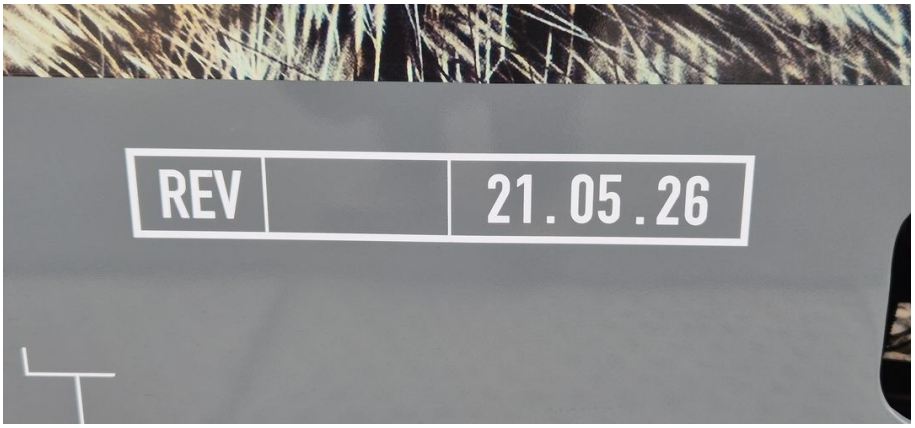
The funeral line up at Luxembourg depot of the remaining six CFL 3000s on 9th September 2026. Photograph by Eric Back.

Class 188

188 181 Revision Date



188 184 Revision Date



188 185 in plain white at Pétange on 21st August with some of the bright orange ballast wagons that have been through Pétange Wagon Works.

Photograph by Marc Lanser and posted to Lëtzebuerger Eisebunn,Tram an Bus Frënn.

I wonder if 188 185 is going to be different to all the others and first goes on display at the Open Day in eight days time.



4013’s Revision Date

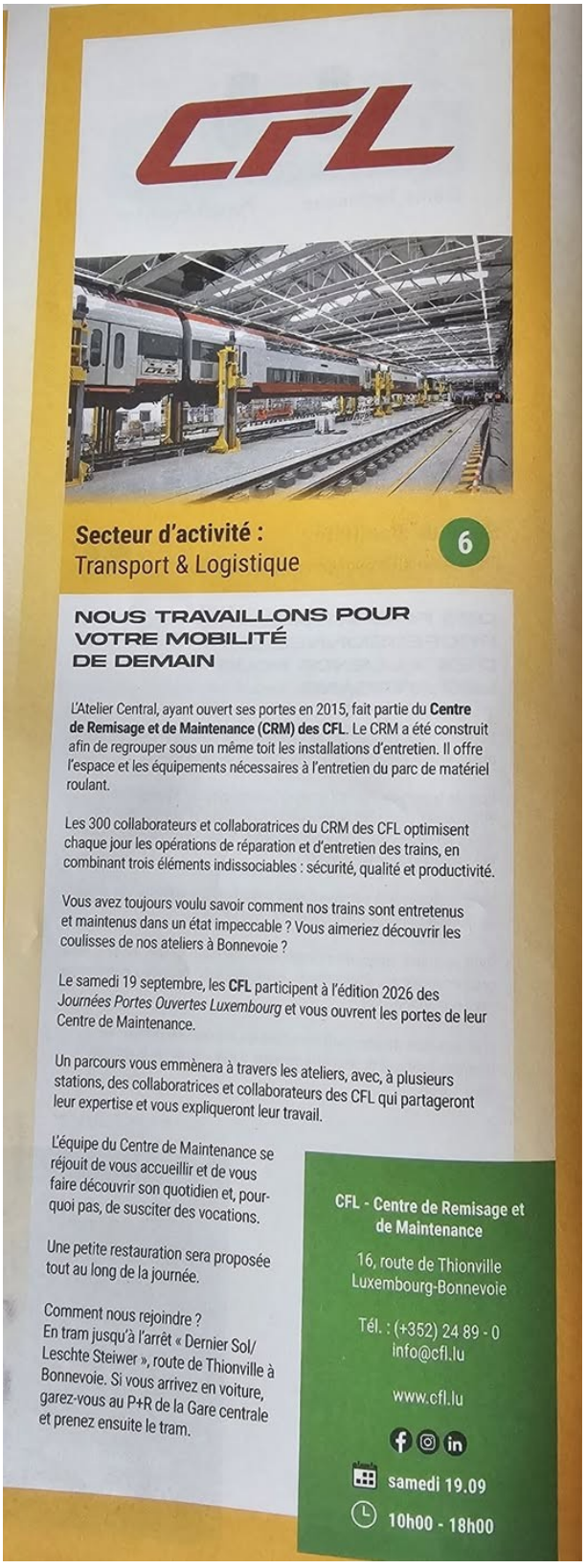


CFL Luxembourg Depot Open Day

Saturday 19th September 2026

10:00 to 18:00

https://groupe.cfl.lu/en-gb/news/detail/portes-ouvertes-2026



Nederlands Nieuws

Class 1500



1501 was photographed by Aad de Meij on the 13th August 2026 at the Railway Museum in Utrecht. Sir Nigel designed the EM1 locomotives and the EM2/1500 are based on the EM1s. The 19th June 2026 would have been Sir Nigel Gresley’s 150th Birthday.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigel_Gresley

NS Units

ICM

From Houtrakpolder by road for scrap:
25th August 2026: sBk 4021, mBFk 4021, AB 4043

From Houtrakpolder by road for scrap (unconfirmed):
18th August 2026: all of 4033 and 4050
25th August 2026: sBk 4043
Note that these unconfirmed reports are speculation on SOMDA

Out of Service (accident damage): 4086
4086 had a collision with agricultural tractor and trailer at Bathmen on 23rd August.

VIRM

Out of Service (fire damage): 8646
8646 had a fire in the toilet of the ABv6 car at Utrecht Central Station on 25th August.

ICNG

Eighty one examples have been in passenger service. As with all things ICNG, “Service” is open to interpretation.

ICNG-5	3101, 3102, 3103, , 3105, 3106, 3107, 3108, 3109, 3110	[9]
	3111, 3112, 3113, 3114, 3115, 3116, 3117, 3118, 3119, 3120	[9]
	3121, 3122, 3123, 3124, 3125, 3126, 3127, 3128, 3129, 3130	[9]
	3131, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140	[10]
	3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3148, 3149	[9]
ICNG-8	3201, 3205, 3206, 3209	[4]
	3211, 3212, 3214, 3215, 3219, 3220	[6]
	3221, 3222, 3223, 3224, 3225, 3226, 3227	[7]
ICNG-B	3304, 3305, 3306, 3307, 3308, 3309, 3310	[7]
	3311, 3312, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317, 3318, 3319, 3320	[10]
	3321	[1]

In Commissioning/Acceptance/Testing are 3112, 3122, 3351 & 3352.

3106 went into service on 6th September 2026.
3108 is back on regular passenger work.
3141 is at Alstom Brugge for Retrofit Work. Back in late October.
3142 is at Alstom Brugge for Retrofit Work. Back in very early October.
3147 is now the Zwolle training set.
3215 entered service on Monday 9th September.
3217 was on delivery but had an accident and is being returned to Chorzów.
3225 is back in passenger service after retrofit work at Alstom Brugge.
3308 is out of service due to fire damage in the toilet on 16th May 2026.
3320 is out of service after a side scrape with 4083 at Lelystad Yard.

Blast From The Past



An atmospheric scene from around the roundhouse at Luxembourg depot on my last visit to an open day there on 10th May 2009.

Belgian Can Can

55 / 144



https://www.flickr.com/photos/maartenschoubben/53920951318

Maarten Schoubben took this photograph on 3rd March 2022 at Marches-les-Dames whilst it was working IC2410: Brussel-Zuid > Liege Saint Lambertus.

Cutting up has started again in Poland and very shortly, 2131 will be scrapped.

De 2131 mocht begin 2022 nog rustig rondtoeren in België en op 3 maart van dat jaar kon ik haar zo nog vereeuwigen met een "typische" NMBS trein aan de haak met in de achtergrond de bekende rotsen van Marches-les-Dames. Op 6 mei 2022 werd de 2131 dan buiten dienst gesteld en werd verkocht aan een Poolse firma. Ze verliet uiteindelijk België op 11 augustus 2022.



Other News

BigJobber
5h · Crash · The Primitives ·

Don't put your feet on the dash ‼️ ‼️

Feet up on the dash, airbags could make your hips go smash! (Or worse) **See less**

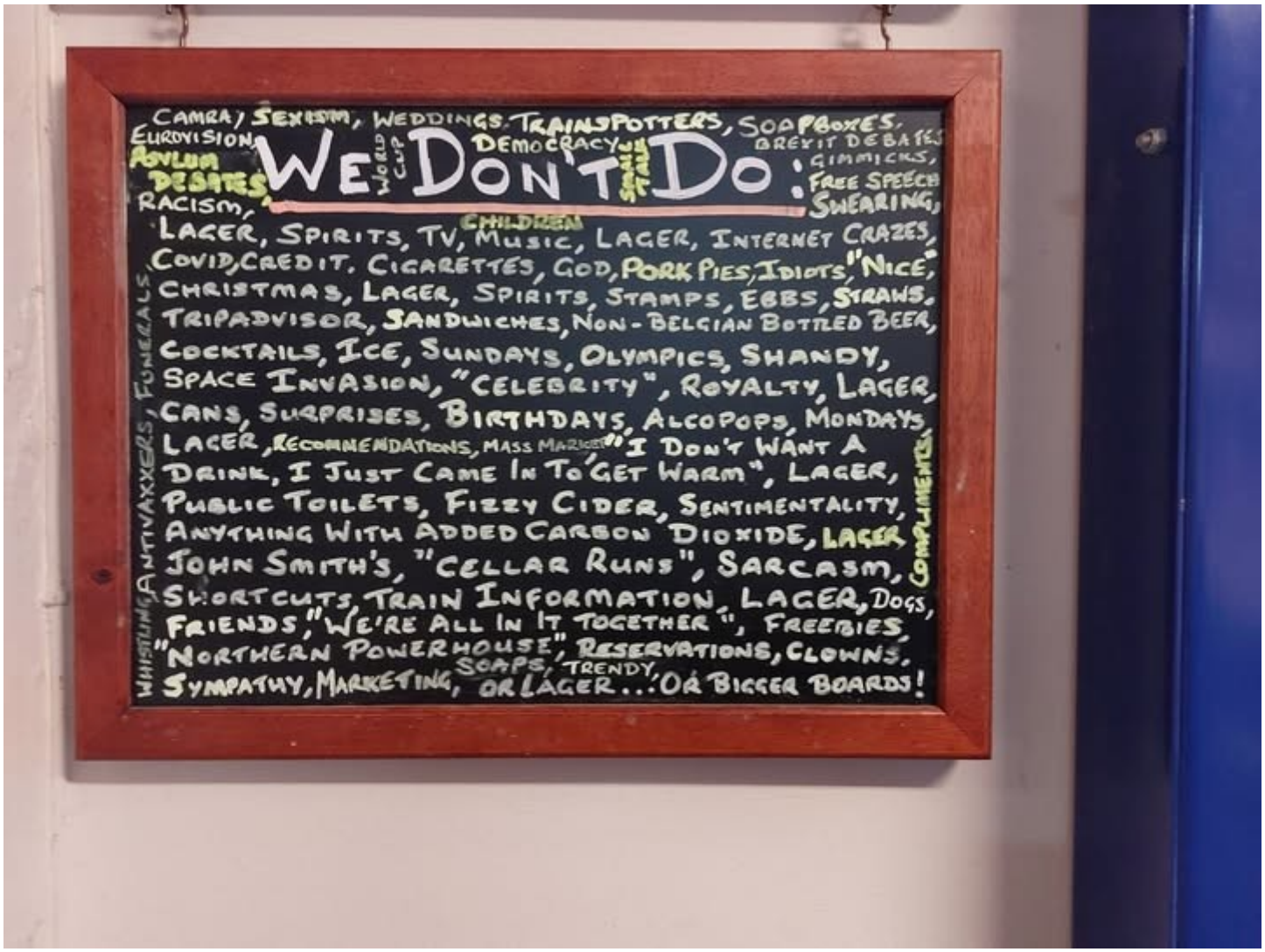




635 185 212


NetworkRail
See it,
Wear it,
Sweat it.

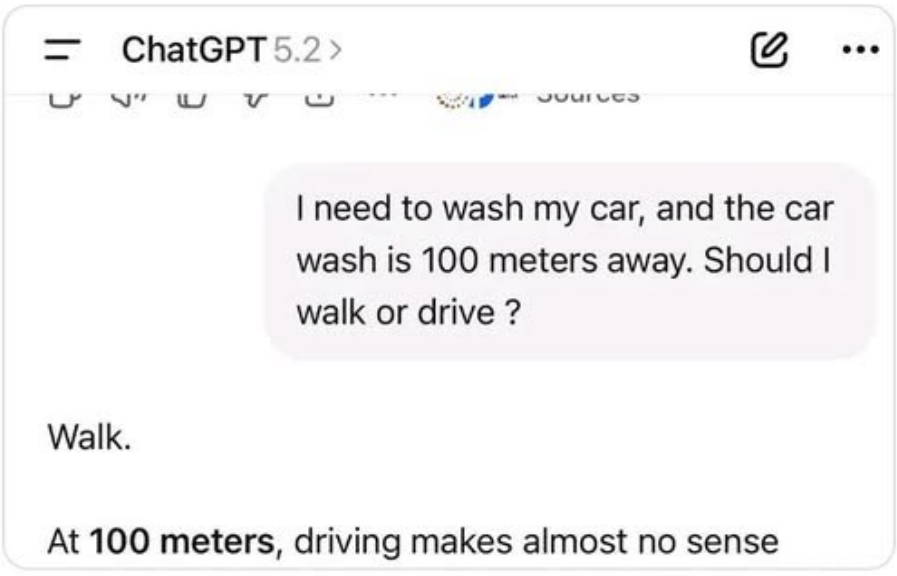

T Mulhall
Safety First
the Bash Mash

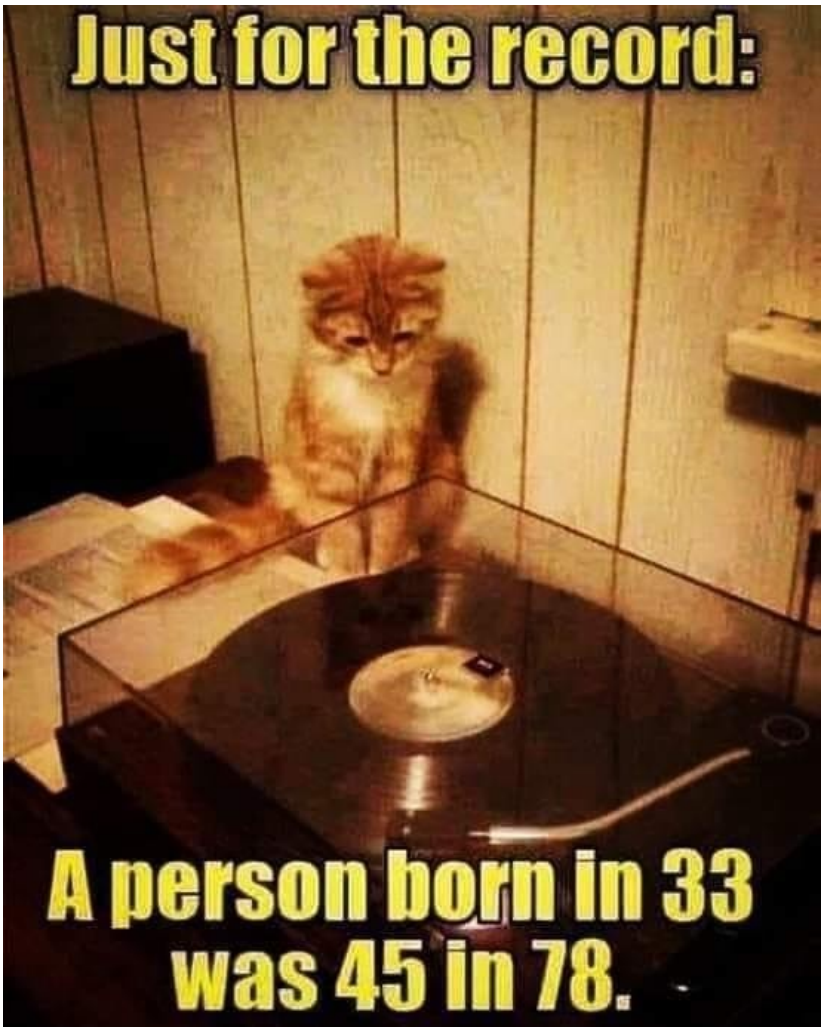




Yaroslav Trofimov
@yarotrof

For all of you relying on AI for advice.





Police have confirmed that the man who tragically fell from the roof of an 18th floor Nightclub Was not a bouncer



Have a nice week

Iain