

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

With European Union's Initiative "DiscoverEU", 15.000 Young People Aged 18 To Receive Travel Pass To Explore Europe this summer

"Since its foundation, Interrail has contributed to fostering European values"
Eurail Group's General Manager Carlo Boselli welcomes the initiative

UTRECHT, The Netherlands, 15 June 2018 – Interrail is proud to participate in the European Union's initiative "**DiscoverEU**", allowing 15.000 young people aged 18 to receive a travel Pass to experience the diversity of Europe this summer, on the occasion of the *European Year of Cultural Heritage*.

The DiscoverEU initiative is based on a proposal tabled by the European Parliament to implement a "**Free Interrail Pass for Europeans turning 18**", with EUR 12 million included in the 2018 EU budget for a pilot project this summer. The pilot is expected to provide young people with a travel experience that would help foster a European identity, reinforce common European values, and promote the discovery of European sites and cultures.

Commenting on the "DiscoverEU" initiative **Carlo Boselli, General Manager for Eurail Group G.I.E.**, the company behind the Interrail Pass, said: *"The initiative of using Interrail to further foster European unity amongst youth immediately gained the strongest support of the whole Interrail community, and we are now excited to see DiscoverEU come in to fruition. The foundations of Interrail are linked to youth, as Interrail has been one of the many ways in which the European Union values have been determined by a younger generation. Millions of young people have experienced this traditional rite of passage since Interrail's foundation in 1972. Often being a teenager's first taste of independent travel, Interrail has brought many generations of young Europeans together to discover what makes Europe so special and the commonalities that bring us together"*.

Mr Boselli continues: *"Interrail entails a sustainable, climate-friendly way of travelling. DiscoverEU's use of rail travel supports the key goal of reducing the harmful impact of the transport sector on our environment and societies. I wish all the young travellers who will be able to take advantage of this wonderful initiative to be open to broaden their horizons, as this trip will be a lifechanging experience that will truly contribute to foster their identity as individuals and as European citizens"*.

Launched in 1972 as a European train pass for youth, the Interrail Pass is now open to all ages and available for travel in and throughout 30 different nations in Europe. Youth, aged 12-27 years, represent the largest passenger group among Interrailers. In 2017, over 280.000 Interrail Passes were issued to European residents, with the most popular destinations for Interrail travellers being Vienna, Hamburg, Berlin, Prague and Budapest.

Young people eligible for DiscoverEU can apply online until 26 June 2018 at 12:00 (CET) via the Youth Portal of the EU: europa.eu/youth/discovereu/apply_en. For further information on the initiative, visit europa.eu/youth/discovereu_en.

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Notes to Editor

Interview requests are welcome and will be accommodated where possible

About Interrail

Interrail Passes are synonymous with borderless rail experience throughout Europe, providing multi-destination train travel across the continent. With just one rail pass travellers of all ages have the ability to travel in and through up to 30 different European countries, and access extra benefits and discounts along their journey. Established in 2001, Eurail Group G.I.E. is the organisation dedicated to the management of Eurail and Interrail products, for both non-European and European residents respectively. Owned by over 35 railway and shipping companies, Eurail Group G.I.E. partners with hotels, transport companies and attractions to offer additional special benefits to all Interrail Pass holders across Europe. Visit www.eurailgroup.org and www.interrail.eu for further information.

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