



# Zug der Erinnerung e. V.



Ausgezeichnet von der EU-Kommission mit dem Golden Stars Award 2010 für aktives bürgerschaftliches Engagement

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## Press Statement 05-11

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*Under the Supervision of the German Minister of Transport:*

## Swastikas Instead of Assistance for the Victims

*The Deutsche Bahn AG is advertizing with Nazi Paraphernalia:*

*"Intolerable Revisionism by a pan-European Enterprise"*

*Inauguration of the November Pogroms with the "Deutsche Reichsbahn"*

The Deutsche Bahn AG (DB AG) is making advertisement using Nazi Paraphernalia and praising the technological high performance under the swastika. This is how the DB AG presents a Nazi locomotive in its company's museum and on the internet ("Germany's first rapid electric locomotive"), carrying the emblem of the Nazi dictatorship. *(Photo 1)* A second notorious locomotive, used to deport millions to their deaths in the Nazi extermination camps ("Steam locomotive, series 52, so-called war locomotive"), is on display in the DB AG's public self-promotion. *(Photo 2)* "Annually, at the DB AG, thousands of German youth, are marveling at the products of the German war industry, that had wreaked devastation throughout Europe," explains the citizen's initiative "Train of Commemoration". On the up-coming commemoration of the 1938 November Pogroms the citizen's initiative appeals to international public opinion.

The DB AG is Europe's largest logistics enterprise, with significant branch offices in all countries formerly occupied by the Nazis. **It is a state-owned enterprise and is under the supervision of the German Minister of Transport.** Several German government state secretaries hold seats on its board of directors. This enterprise, valued at billions, has receipts of more than 5 million Euros daily in passenger services alone.

The same enterprise charges exorbitant rates for holding commemoration ceremonies for the victims of Nazi deportations. The "Train of Commemoration," which has been commemorating these deportees of Nazi terror on European rail networks since 2007 had to pay the DB AG more than 200,000 Euros (charges for use of rail lines and stations). "Only a portion of these expenses caused by the DB AG" has been recovered by the commemoration initiative, according to the press statement on the 1938 November Pogroms.

Already at the end of October 1938, the DB AG's predecessor (the "Deutsche Reichsbahn") had made a significant contribution to the pogroms, by having deported eastward in "special trains," around 17,000 Jews, living in Germany, ("Poland Action"). The DB AG has "made no decisive efforts to clarify the full extent of its predecessor's criminal complicity and render the appropriate assistance to the survivors," explains the press statement. "Instead, the DB AG places the technical means, used for the war of aggression, the mass deportations and the murders, on display. With its "donation" of up to 25 Euros per survivor – made due to public pressure – the DB AG is insulting the victims. **The German Minister of Transport is fully responsible for this intolerable revisionism and the insulting financial behavior of this company in operation throughout Europe,**" declares the "Train of Commemoration" in its press statement. The press statement is also addressed to the members of the European Parliament and will be diffused in the United States, where the DB AG is in the process of expanding with numerous subsidiaries.

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Exhibit 1



*(E19 Electric locomotive at the DB Museum, Nuremberg, Germany. Author Juergen Roskamp. Wikimedia Commons)*

"The E 1912 was restored to its original state for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 1985. The Deutsche Reichsbahn's swastika emblem, which the locomotive carried when it was commissioned in 1940, was re-attached."

[http://www.deutschebahn.com/site/dbmuseum/de/fahrzeugsammlung/fahrzeughalle\\_zwei/e\\_19\\_12.html](http://www.deutschebahn.com/site/dbmuseum/de/fahrzeugsammlung/fahrzeughalle_zwei/e_19_12.html)

The public display (which is always done with the Reich's eagle), has been visited by tens of thousands of youth.

Exhibit 2



In May 2011 the DB AG engaged in public relations, "with food and drink" with a locomotive of this type (photo: commissioning the first exemplar of the Nazi 52 series) at the Leipzig Central Station.

The occasion: "Public Relations between business, politics, the railroad and the media" – "in a typical railroad setting," according to the official invitation.

Hundreds of thousands of victims from all over Europe were deported to their deaths with this locomotive. Whereas the DB AG seeks to deny its Nazi financial heritage and appear with clean hands, it uses the Nazi's "Reichsbahn's" trophies of death as its ornaments.