

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Vale d'Ouro presents a proposal for a High-Speed Line in Portuguese region of Trás-os-Montes**

With his starting point at Francisco Sá Carneiro airport in Porto, this proposal provides travel times of 43 minutes to Vila Real, 1h14m to Bragança and a connection to AV Madrid-Galicia, 35 km from the border.

The Associação Vale d'Ouro, a non-profitable organization based on Douro region, participated in the public consultation for the Portuguese National Rail Plan submitting a study towards for a new high-speed line between Porto – Vila Real - Bragança - Zamora demystifying a series of technical issues about the infeasibility of the corridor, pointing to an economic importance with impact throughout the country and without affecting the existing railway network, namely the Douro Railway Line.

The involvement in the public debate of the Portuguese National Rail Plan by means of the study, culminates in the document available in [www.avtrasosmontes.associacaovaleouro.pt](http://www.avtrasosmontes.associacaovaleouro.pt). These are two more moments in which Vale d'Ouro association understood that it could make the difference and turn available their resources and knowledge to the region.

Pro bono developed by a set of technicians of recognized suitability and technical competence this study intends to be a constructive proposal to launch the discussion, on the possibility of building a high-speed railway line linking Francisco Sá Carneiro airport to the Spanish high-speed network that distance 35 km from the border, passing through Paços de Ferreira, Amarante, Vila Real, Alijó/Murça, Mirandela, Podence/Macedo de Cavaleiros and Bragança.

The proposed high-speed line corridor, of mixed traffic, present speeds of 160 km/h to Paços de Ferreira, 200 km/h to Vila Real and 250 km/h in the remaining route, representing an investment that will allow to return to region of Trás-os-Montes a modern railway, reinstatement an exclusive dependence on road transport for the mobility of people and goods.

This high-speed line will not only enhance the territorial and socio-economic cohesion of the region of Trás-os-Montes but will also bring the Northern region and the country closer to Western Europe in a strategy aligned and framed in the carbon neutrality policies defined by the European Community, which give to the train the main role of the backbone of the entire transport system.

A railway corridor of this importance and nature will for sure transfigure the mobility and accessibility of the Northern Region, creating a positive impact on the entire national economy, notably in the role of economic facilitator in support of the export sector, shrinking and decreasing distances. The journey from Porto to Vila Real will be 43 minutes, while to Bragança will be 1 hour 14 minutes. The Spanish capital, Madrid, will be 3 hours from Porto and with the new Porto-Lisbon line planned in National Investment Program PNI 2030, will be 4h15m.

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The Associação Vale d'Ouro also submitted a contribution about the importance of Douro Line even considering that, at this stage and that after the approval of its reopening unanimously in the Portuguese Parliament, the National Rail Plan will inevitably have to consider this link.

**Attached:**

Full Study: <http://www.avtrasosmontes.associacaovaledouro.pt/>

Map of the Layout

Simplified Longitudinal Profile

Travel Times

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