



Fyikeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel.: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

M i n u t e s of meeting in NSC Transport group, Gothenburg, Västra Götaland Region, 30 September 2009

Attendance:

Leif Blomqvist, Västra Götalands Region (SE), Chair
Jon Halvard Eide, Vest-Agder (NO), Adviser
Mark Skilling, Aberdeenshire Council (UK)
Philip Smart, Aberdeenshire Council (UK)
Sara Persson, Västra Götalands Region (SE)
Mimmi Von Troil, Västra Götalands Region (SE)

Apologies:

Anne E. Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council (Sco), Vice Chair
Poul Weber, South Denmark Region (Den), Vice Chair
Erik Ørskov, South Denmark Region (Den)
Marjolein Zwerver, Groningen Seaports (NL)
Tommy Madsen, Region North Jutland (Den)
Hanne-Marie Sieg Sørensen, Central Denmark Region (Den)

1. Welcome, presentation of participants

The Chair welcomed the participants to the meeting. He extended a special welcome to the new representative from Aberdeenshire Council, Transport strategy manager Mr. Mark Skilling (replacing Philip McKay), as well as to Ms. Sara Persson – being maternity cover for Maria A. Larsson.

2. Minutes of meeting in Eegmond An Zee 23 June 2009

Decision & follow-up:

The minutes were approved

3. Update and progress on items in Work Plan 2009 – 2010

Update of Work Plan 2009 - 2010

The Adviser had prior to the meeting circulated an updated version of the Work Plan – updating the time frame and definition of certain tasks.



Decision & follow-up:

The meeting endorsed the updated version of the Work Plan.

3.1 Monitoring and responding to the European Agenda

Revision of TEN-T – follow up of responses to Green Paper, report from meeting in CPMR TEN-T group 30 September

Three members of the group had attended a meeting of the CPMR Working group on the TEN-T revision earlier the same morning and gave a brief report from this meeting (separate minutes from this meeting will be distributed if/when they are received from the CPMR Secretariat).

The European Commission received 300 replies to the open consultation on the TEN-T Green Paper, of which 27 from national administrations and 53 from regional authorities. The CPMR response is mentioned in the summary report from the Commission. The results of the open and forward-looking contributions to the public consultation will feed into the TEN-T policy review process, both at the network planning and implementation stages. In the course of the next few years, this process may lead to legislative proposals and proposals for other Community action in this field. It will be linked to relevant transport policy action within and across the different transport sectors. See link to consultation summary report:
http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/consultations/doc/2009-07-31_summary_report_green_paper_on_future_ten-t_networks.pdf

One of the main legislative proposals planned as a follow-up to the Green Paper is a revision of the Community Guidelines for developing a trans-European transport network (publication foreseen for the end of 2010). At a later stage, this proposal is expected to be supplemented by legislative proposals on Community funding. Based on the experience from the last TEN-T revision in 2004, a 2 year process of negotiations might follow after this.

TEN-T days will be organised in Naples on 21 – 22 October. Ministers from Member states & beyond will discuss the results of the consultation. The CPMR Working group will (at least) be represented by the Chair Region Aragon (ES).

The European Commission will establish 6 expert groups on the TEN-T revision between now and March next year, also covering legal issues and non-financial instruments, such as European Coordinators and Open Method of Coordination. The CPMR might have a seat in one of the working groups.

The European Commission will issue a Communication on the methodology for the TEN-T revision in the first quarter of 2010.



A TEN-T stakeholder conference will be organised in Zaragoza under the Spanish EU Presidency on 18 March. The Chair Region Aragon will explore the feasibility of organising a meeting of the CPMR Working group inside or back to back with this meeting.

The NSC representatives proposed that the Chair Region Aragon and the CPMR Secretariat should draft a work plan for the CPMR Working group, highlighting the main issues and milestones in the revision process. The meeting endorsed this proposal in principle and suggested that “work units” might also be organised around main themes shared by different geographical commissions.

Each geographical commission then presented their priority themes and concepts, as well as geographical priorities for the TEN-T revision. The NSC contribution was distributed prior to the meeting and the (available) contributions from the other geographical commissions are attached to the minutes.

Decision & follow-up:

- The NSC Transport group will continue to follow the TEN-T revision process through participation in the CPMR Working group.
- The CPMR Mediterranean Commission should not “get away with” the impression that they’re the only one macro region/disconnected from the current priority projects under the TEN-T, as this applies as much for the NSC and other geographical commissions.

EU Urban transport agenda

Sara Persson informed that the Urban Transport Action Plan had been published the very day of the meeting. See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:DKEY=501754:EN:NOT>

The Action Plan proposes twenty measures to encourage and help local, regional and national authorities in achieving their goals for sustainable urban mobility. With the Action Plan, the European Commission presents for the first time a comprehensive support package in the field of urban mobility.

Local, regional and national authorities are free to use this support, and the tools that will be offered. By doing so, they will be better equipped to address the challenge of sustainable urban mobility, which will facilitate their policy making. In addition, Europe's citizens and companies will benefit from this on a daily basis.

The actions are being launched over the four years following the Action Plan's adoption. The European Commission will conduct a review of the implementation of the Action Plan in the year 2012, and will assess the need for further action.



Decision & follow-up:

- Västra Götalands region will start to analyse the Action Plan and report back to the group shortly, including recommendations on how the Plan might be exploited by the NSC
- The group decides on the way forward on the basis of this analysis

3.2 Cooperation with Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) on transport issues

The BSC and the NSC Transport groups organised a common session on the TEN-T revision and on Green Freight Transport Corridors. The latter issue was presented by a representative of the Swedish Ministry for Enterprise (also dealing with transport). A presentation of this concept is attached to the minutes.

It was agreed that the BSC and NSC have certain common interests related to the TEN-T revision and should continue to mutually attend meetings and exchange information on policy positions. There are also synergy potentials to be exploited between transport projects under the Baltic Sea Region and North Sea Region Interreg programmes – facilitated by the fact that NSC members (Västra Götaland and Vest-Agder) are partners to projects in both programmes.

Decision & follow-up:

- The Transport group will continue the cooperation with its counterpart in the BSC – mainly on thematic issues of common interest

3.3 Projects for Interreg IV B North Sea Region Programme & other programmes

No new transport projects have been approved since the last meeting on 23 June. It was pointed out that the Care North project - Carbon responsible strategies in the North Sea Area – could be a relevant resource in relation to the activities on Urban transport and energy issues.

Decision & follow-up:

- Start to act on the decision from last meeting to “shadow” and establish cooperation arrangements with the Care North project. The group will consider to invite a representative from this project to the next meeting



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

3.4 Energy issues in the transport sector

Aberdeenshire is experiencing technical problems in accessing and editing the NSC web site. On this background it might be more feasible to host the database with good practice on energy efficient transport solutions at the Aberdeenshire web. Philip Smart then went through the structure and functionalities (incl. a search engine) of the database.

The meeting referred to the examples submitted so far, and Aberdeenshire will develop a menu for the database adapted to these examples.

Decision & follow-up:

- Aberdeenshire constructs a database according to the specifications above and enters the good practice submitted so far. It should also ensure that a link to the database is inserted at the NSC web site.
- NSC member regions will be encouraged to submit good practice examples as soon as the database is operational.

3.5 Statistical mapping of key developments in the transport sector

The Chair emphasised the importance of updating the statistics to reflect a hopefully more sustainable trend in modal split. The meeting suggested that the statistical mapping section of the web as far as feasible should be harmonised with the energy task.

Decision & follow-up:

- South Denmark Region and Västra Götalands region will compile updated statistics with a view of publishing a new report on major trends in modal split to the Executive Committee in the Spring of 2010.

4. General NSC issues

NSC initiative to work for the launch of an EU strategy for the North Sea Region

The Adviser informed about the above initiative. Transport-related issues are dealt with under the heading of "Accessibility and attractiveness". The strategy will be discussed at a workshop under the Open Days in Brussels on 7 October in cooperation with the North Sea & English Channel Intergroup in the Committee of Regions, and will also be subject for a thematic meeting in conjunction with the next Executive on 1 December. The NSC will furthermore try to organise a stakeholder conference around the strategy next winter/spring.



Decision & follow-up:

- The Adviser will keep group members regularly informed about the strategy development work.
- Group members are encouraged to study the transport-related section of the strategy paper with a view of providing further input through the Adviser.

5. Next meeting

Decision & follow-up:

Suitable dates between mid January and mid February will be explored among the political chairmanship of the group. A host region will be approached as soon as a mutually agreeable date has been identified.

6. Any other business

No issues reported