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## **MINUTES of Meeting of NSC Transport group, Stavanger (NO), 16 June 2010**

### **Attendance:**

Cllr. Anne E. Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council (Sco), Vice Chair  
Cllr. Preben Friis-Hauge, South Denmark Region (Den), Vice Chair  
Jon Halvard Eide, Vest-Agder (Nor), Adviser  
Cllr. Mimmi Von Troil, Västra Götalands Region (Swe)  
Cllr. Odd Arild Kvaløy, Rogaland County Council (Nor)  
Cllr. Fiona Grant, Fife Council (Sco)  
Mark Skilling, Aberdeenshire Council (Sco)  
Collin McKenzie, Aberdeenshire Council (Sco)  
Erik Ørskov, South Denmark Region (Den)  
Henrik Koch, City of Bremen / Care North project (Ger)  
Yakov Boglev, Napier University / NMU project (Sco)  
Lisa Belfrage, Västra Götalands Region (Swe)

### **Apologies:**

Cllr. Leif Blomqvist, Västra Götalands Region (Swe), Chair  
Marjolein Zwerver, Groningen Seaports (NL)  
Tommy Madsen, Region North Jutland (Den)  
Sara C. Persson, Västra Götalands Region (Swe),

### **1. Welcome, presentation of participants**

**Vice Chair Robertson** welcomed the participants to the meeting. She congratulated Preben Friis Hauge with his election as new Vice Chair of the group at the last Executive, and extended a special welcome to people participating in a group meeting for the first time.

### **2. Minutes of meeting in Copenhagen 22 February 2010**

#### **Decision & follow-up:**

The minutes were approved

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

#### **3.1 Monitoring and responding to the European Agenda**

## Revision of TEN-T

**The Adviser** made a short report from the meeting of the CPMR TEN-T working group in Zaragoza on 7 June, where the NSC was represented by Cllr. Mimmi Von Troil, Cecila Lagerdahl, Mark Skilling, Philip Smart (expert) and Jon Halvard Eide. The main purpose of this meeting had been to get an update on the TEN-T revision process from European Commission officials and to start preparing a CPMR response to the EU consultation on the TEN-T closing on 15 September. At the meeting the NSC delegation presented a preliminary position on priorities for the the geographical strand of the future TEN-T.

*The consultation questions are as follows:*

Are the principles and criteria for designing the core network, as set out above [in the consultation document], adequate and practicable? What are their strengths and weaknesses, and what else could be taken into account?

To what extent do the supplementary infrastructure measures contribute to the objectives of a future-oriented transport system, and are there ways to strengthen their contribution?

What specific role could TEN-T planning in general play in boosting the transport sector's contribution to the "Europe 2020" strategic objectives?

In which way can the different sources of EU expenditure be better coordinated and/or combined in order to accelerate the delivery of TEN-T projects and policy objectives?

How can an EU funding strategy coordinate and/or combine the different sources of EU and national funding and public and private financing?

Would the setting up of a European funding framework adequately address the implementation gap in the completion of TEN-T projects and policy objectives?

In which way can the TEN-T policy benefit from the new legal instruments and provisions as set out above [in the consultation document]?

## **Decision & follow-up:**

- The Transport group responds to the TEN-T consultation on behalf of the NSC, circulating a draft response to the Executive Committee in beforehand as a written procedure. The main points of the NSC response should be fed in to the CPMR response.
- The Adviser circulates the TEN-T consultation document to the group members (attached to these minutes) and drafts a preliminary response on the basis of input from the members (deadlines for contributions to be proposed later).

## EU Urban transport agenda

The EU Commission published an Action Plan on Urban Transport on 30 September 2009. The meeting of the Transport group in Gothenburg the same day decided that Västra Götaland Region



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should start to analyse the Action Plan and report back on how the Action Plan could be exploited by the NSC. Due to the absence of the relevant officer from Västra Götaland, no report was given in the meeting.

#### **Decision & follow-up:**

- Västra Götaland Region provides the group with an analysis of the EU Urban Transport Action Plan in the next meeting.
- Group members are in the mean time encouraged to study the Urban Transport Action Plan

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

**Cllr. Von Troil** had attended the last meeting of the BSC Transport group in Rostock-Warnemünde, on 27 May and gave a short oral report there from. This meeting had addressed the TEN-T revision, the EU 2020 strategy and the cohesion policy. The NSC delegation to the TEN-T meeting in Zaragoza on 7 June had also informally communicated with members of the BSC delegation. The next meeting of the BSC group is scheduled for Jyväskylä (FI) on 31 November - 01 December 2010.

#### **Decision & follow-up:**

- The Transport group should take a renewed contact with its counterpart in the BSC after the new administration of the latter is in place following the change of presidency and secretariat.
- The Transport group explores the feasibility of organising a joint session with the BSC group at the next meeting on the eve of the CPMR General Assembly in Aberdeen in late September

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

#### **Update on transport projects under the North Sea Programme**

**The Adviser** gave a brief update on relevant projects being approved in the last application round of the North Sea Programme. 5 of the approved projects are dealing directly with transport issues and several actors in NSC member regions are partners to these projects. The projects are addressing various issues such as cruise traffic, green airports, food logistics, promotion of regional ports and clean shipping. The Information about the approved projects may (eventually) be found on the North Sea Region Programme home page.

### **Decision & follow-up:**

- Group members are expected to keep the group informed about new transport projects with partners from their regions.
- The group should consider to invite new projects to present themselves at future group meetings

### **3.4 Energy issues in the transport sector**

**Mark Skilling**, Aberdeenshire Council, gave a brief update on the status and progress of this task. He reminded the meeting that the last group meeting on 22 February had decided to widen the scope of good practice being collected under this task to all modes and forms of transport, and informed that a relevant pro-format was being developed for this purpose. The intention is to invite all NSC members to submit good practice examples to a data base.

### **Decision & follow-up:**

- The Adviser and NSC Secretariat in Telemark should provide Mark Skilling with mail addresses for all NSC members
- Mark Skilling should then (tentatively during August-September) circulate a pro format to all NSC members – inviting them to submit good practice examples
- The good practice examples received will be compiled in a data base to be uploaded at the NSC home page, tentatively by the end of the year.

### **3.5 Statistical mapping of key developments in the transport sector**

The last group meeting on 22 February had decided to shift the focus of the statistical mapping task, whereby the group this year should concentrate on identifying, compiling and analysing transport statistics of relevance for the “North Sea Region 2020 initiative”.

**Erik Ørskov**, South Denmark Region, made a brief update on the status and progress of this task. He suggested that the consultation on the “North Sea Region 2020 initiative” which was carried out among NSC members until 31 May could be used as a guidance for the statistical mapping task – giving direction for the focus of the statistics.

### **Decision & follow-up:**

- The meeting agreed that the NSC “2020 consultation” should act as a guidance for the statistical mapping task.



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- The Adviser makes sure that Erik Ørskov has access to the most updated material on the 2020 consultation
- On this background Erik Ørskov submits a proposal for statistical mapping in support of the 2020 initiative to the next group meeting

#### **4. General NSC issues**

##### North Sea Region 2020 strategic initiative

**Lisa Belfrage** informed the group about recent developments on the 2020 initiative, including the results of a survey which had been carried out among NSC members until 31 May (is attached herewith).

##### **Decision & follow-up:**

- A presentation of the survey results and the plans for follow-up are circulated with these minutes
- The Transport group should on this basis consider how to best contribute to the further development of the 2020 initiative.
- The Work Plan of the group should be reviewed at the next meeting with a view of maximising support for further development of the 2020 initiative

#### **5. Next meeting**

28 September in Aberdeen, starting around noon / lunch time and ending around 5/6 pm.

#### **6. Any other business**

No issues were reported.