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MINUTES of Meeting of NSC Transport group, Copenhagen Airport, 22 February 2010

Attendance:

Cllr. Leif Blomqvist, Västra Götalands Region (Swe), Chair
Jon Halvard Eide, Vest-Agder (Nor), Adviser
Mark Skilling, Aberdeenshire Council (Sco)
Erik Ørskov, South Denmark Region (Den)
Cllr. Preben Friis-Hauge, South Denmark Region (Den)

Apologies:

Anne E. Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council (Sco), Vice Chair
Marjolein Zwerver, Groningen Seaports (NL)
Tommy Madsen, Region North Jutland (Den)
Sara C. Persson, Västra Götalands Region (Swe),

1. Welcome, presentation of participants

The Chair welcomed the participants to the meeting. He extended a special welcome to Cllr. Preben Friis-Hauge from South Denmark Region who attended a meeting of the group for the first time. **Mr. Hauge** informed that he was attending the meeting in order to get a basis for deciding whether he's going to run for the vacant position as Vice-Chair after Poul Weber who retired from politics last autumn.

2. Minutes of meeting in Gothenburg 30 September 2009

Decision & follow-up:

The minutes were approved

3. Update and progress on items in Work Plan 2008 – 2009

3.1 Monitoring and responding to the European Agenda

Revision of TEN-T

The Adviser made an introduction about recent developments on this issue on the basis of information distributed to the group before the meeting.



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Currently, DG TREN / DG TRAN is proceeding with internal hearings. The focus is upon methodological issues for TEN-T such as transport flows, intermodality, CO2 reduction etc. - concrete maps, e.g. for the future "core network" will be the last step, according to a high-level contact person in Brussels. A ministerial meeting on this theme will be held on 8 and 9 June 2010 in Zaragoza. According to information, the Commission plans to put forward a proposed review of the TEN-T guidelines at the end of 2010, simultaneously with the publication of a White Paper on the future EU transport policy.

The Region of Aragón will host a meeting of the CPMR TEN-T working group on 7 June in Zaragoza, the day before the transport ministers meeting in this same town. The CPMR Secretariat is proposing to open up the working group to other participants, experts in the field of transport infrastructure and regional development, which will result in a format of a working seminar of around 50 people. The Geographical Commissions are invited to think about potential candidates.

The CPMR has identified three levels and three stages in the review process:

- A conceptual level: which concepts, criteria, methods of governance to introduce in the guidelines so that the priorities of our Regions are taken into account: A proposal for the adoption of a position on this conceptual pillar will be proposed to the CPMR Political Bureau, which meets on the 11 June in Norway.
- A geographical level: The EU Commission is encouraging the stakeholders, and particularly the regions, to work together in a trans-national framework to establish corridors or priority routes.
- The financial pillar: lots of ideas have obviously already been voiced in this domain. The CPMR will use the year 2010 to adopt an initial overall vision on the desirable type and level of funding for all territorial policies which it intends to promote, at regional and trans-national level.

The meeting also discussed an input from Philip Smart, assisting Aberdeenshire Council, to the EU map on the TEN-T & extensions. Mr. Smart argued that it would be sensible to continue the Northbound route up the East coast of the UK (following the coast line) and then Northwards to join the NMC route.

Decision & follow-up:

- The Transport group will be represented at the meeting of the CPMR Working group on the TEN-T revision in Zaragoza on 7 June. In addition to the three "regular" representatives, Mr. Philip Smart will attend as an "expert".
- Group members are encouraged to think of other relevant experts to invite to the meeting in Zaragoza on 7 June

- The meeting agreed to the proposal from Philip Smart and will advocate that position in the context of the CPMR TEN-T group.

EU Urban transport agenda

The EU Commission had published an Action Plan on Urban Transport on the day of the last meeting on 30 September. This meeting had decided that Västra Götaland Region 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.

The Adviser informed that a conference on Urban Transport will be organised in Brussels on 24 March in the context of the EU sustainable energy week. This Conference would probably provide a good update on the state of play in this field.

Decision & follow-up:

- Västra Götaland Region provides the group with an analysis of the EU Urban Transport Action Plan after the relevant officer has returned from sick leave.
- Group members are encouraged to study the Urban Transport Action Plan and possibly attend the conference in Brussels on 24 March.

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

No active cooperation with the BSC Transport group had taken place since the last group meeting on 30 September 2009.

Tentative dates for next meetings of BSC Transport group are:

- * Rostock-Warnemünde, Hotel Neptun (DE), Thu 27 May 2010, 09-10:30
- * Jyväskylä (FI), Tue/Wed 31 Nov / 01 Dec 2010

Decision & follow-up:

- Group members are encouraged to attend meetings of the BSC Transport group. Members of the latter group will continue to be invited to NSC Transport group meetings

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



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Update on transport projects under the North Sea Programme

The Adviser gave a brief update on transport projects known to be in the pipeline for the upcoming call closing on 7 April. A relatively high number of transport-related applications are expected to be submitted in this call as there is most funding left under the priority on Accessibility.

The meeting then exchanged information on relevant project proposals in the pipeline for this call, including projects on ferries (IKARUS), airports (SAS) and High Quality Rail (HQRC / Norient Express).

Decision & follow-up:

- Group members are encouraged to inform the group about relevant projects that they might get involved in.
- The group should monitor and study the selection of transport-related projects in the next call (decision expected in June) with a view of shadowing the most relevant projects.

3.4 Energy issues in the transport sector

Mark Skilling, Aberdeenshire Council, gave a brief update on the status and progress of this task. Mr. Skilling proposed to widen the scope of good practice being collected under this task to all modes and forms of transport. He felt that the NSC Transport group could be a suitable platform for a wider exchange of good practice solutions in the transport sector. In this way the group would also be perceived as a more practically-useful body for transport planners and officers in the member regions. Mr. Skilling confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council would be willing to put considerable resources into this task, as it also would be useful in the context of the revised Council transport strategy.

Decision & follow-up:

- The meeting endorsed the proposal to widen the scope of good practice collection to all forms and modes of transport. Aberdeenshire Council will propose a structure and pro-format for such a good practice data base. This task is assumed to benefit from a study of the material presented at the NSC Conferences on sustainable transport in Kristiansand and Aarhus in 2005 and 2002 respectively.
- Group members and NSC members at large will be encourage to submit relevant good practice examples to the data base.

3.5 Statistical mapping of key developments in the transport sector

Erik Ørskov, South Denmark Region, presented some ideas as to how this task should be further developed. Mr. Ørskov didn't see much merit in issuing annual modal split reports as "big" trends are changing on a slower interval than that. Instead of producing a new report for the Spring Executive, he suggested to rather concentrate on identifying, compiling and analysing relevant transport statistics for a North Sea Strategy. He pointed to the Transport Statistics from the Nordic Transportpolitical Network as a relevant model for this.

Decision & follow-up:

- The meeting agreed to the proposed shift in the statistical mapping task, whereby the group this year should concentrate on identifying, compiling and analysing transport statistics of relevance for a North Sea Strategy. South Denmark Region acts as a task holder with assistance from Västra Götaland Region.
- The Adviser consults the NSC Executive Secretary about the proposal

4. General NSC issues

The Adviser informed that he will attend a planning meeting for the Annual Conference in June on 10 March in Copenhagen

The Chair informed that he will attend the North Sea Stakeholder Conference in Newcastle on 17 – 18 March.

Decision & follow-up:

- The Adviser is requested to consult the group on transport-related input to a North Sea Strategy.

5. Next meeting

15 – 16 June in Stavanger, Norway, back to back with the Annual Conference & General Assembly. The meeting will start at lunch on the 15th and end before lunch on the 16th.

6. Any other business

No issues were reported.

NORTH SEA



COMMISSION

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