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Minutes of Meeting in NSC Transport group 28 September 2010, Aberdeen (UK)

Attendance:

Cllr. Leif Blomqvist, Västra Götalands Region (Swe), Chair
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
Mark Skilling, Aberdeenshire Council (Sco)
Philip Smart, Consultant, Aberdeenshire Council (Sco)
Erik Ørskov, South Denmark Region (Den)
Marjolein Zwerver, Groningen Seaports (NL)

Apologies:

Tommy Madsen, Region North Jutland (Den)
Cllr. Mimmi Von Troil, Västra Götalands Region (Swe)
Sara C. Persson, Västra Götalands Region (Swe),

Agenda

1. Welcome, presentation of participants

The Chair welcomed the participants to the meeting and **Vice Chair Robertson** welcomed the group to Aberdeenshire.

2. Minutes of meeting in Stavanger 16 June 2010

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 last group meeting in Stavanger on 16 June 2010 decided to review the Work Plan with a view of maximising support for further development of the NSR 2020 initiative. The meeting discussed how this could be done and decided upon the following:

Decision & follow-up:

- The Work Plan is aligned to the five main priorities of the NSR 2020 initiative by inserting a reference to the priorities corresponding to the respective items in the work plan
- Item 3 is changed to (changes *in italics*): Co-operation with the Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) *and other relevant stakeholders* on Transport issues
- Item 4 is changed from “Energy issues in the transport sector” to “Collection of good practice on sustainable transport solutions”
- Item 5 is changed to (changes *in italics*): Statistical mapping *in support of NSR 2020*
- The revised Work Plan is attached to these minutes

3.1 Monitoring and responding to the European Transport Agenda

Revision of TEN-T – response to EU consultation

The Adviser informed that the NSC response was submitted to DG Move on 15 September after being validated by the Executive Committee through written procedure. NSC input had also been incorporated into CPMR’s consultation response.

The meeting discussed and decided to elaborate upon certain aspects of the NSC response to the TEN-T consultation. The essence of this discussion has been drafted in a separate paper by Philip Smart enclosed with these minutes.

Decision & follow-up:

- The “elaborated aspects” of the TEN-T response will be communicated to the NSC Executive meeting on 29 September by the Chair and submitted to the CPMR Secretariat as an input for future discussions in the TEN-T Intercom group
- Cllr. Mimmi Von Troil should be requested to reflect the “elaborated aspects” in her intervention in the TEN-T session at the CPMR General Assembly on 30 September
- The NSC Transport group should continue to explore how a future TEN-T core network could look like in the North Sea Region by applying the principles and criteria outlined in the EU consultation document



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EU Urban transport agenda

Due to the absence of the relevant officer from Västra Götaland, no report was given in the meeting. It was however informed that this officer is now working on a report on the EU Urban transport agenda which will be forwarded to the group as soon it is ready.

Decision & follow-up:

- The group will study the aforementioned report on the EU Urban transport agenda and discuss recommendations on how NSC member regions could capitalise on the good practice contained in the Urban Transport Action Plan
- The work on the Urban Transport Action Plan should also be exploited in the context of item 3.4 – collection of good practice on sustainable transport solutions.

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

No meetings have been organised in the BSC Transport group since the last meeting in Stavanger in June. There has furthermore been no direct contacts between the two groups but the Advisers are on each other's mailing lists. Besides, the NSC Transport group Adviser is from time to time "running into" members of the BSC Transport group in the context of a project under the Baltic Sea Region Programme.

The meeting felt that the group should widen the scope of cooperation to all relevant stakeholders on transport.

Decision & follow-up:

- The group should consider inviting other stakeholders to group meetings or events when deemed beneficial
- No further initiative is considered towards the BSC Transport group for the moment
- Group members attending BSC events are requested to report back to the group

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

Before the meeting the Adviser had circulated a summary of the transport-related projects approved in the last application round. The projects are involving several NSC member regions, as well as ports, airports and organizations in these regions. Group members being involved in these projects were requested to report back to the group on relevant issues.



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Decision & follow-up:

The following arrangements were agreed as to the monitoring and reporting from projects approved in the last application round:

- South Denmark Region is monitoring and reporting from “SAS Green Airports”
- Västra Götaland Region is monitoring and reporting from “Food Port”
- Groningen Seaports are monitoring and reporting from “Clean North Sea Shipping”
- Aberdeenshire Council is monitoring and reporting from “Cruise Gateway”

3.4 Energy issues in the transport sector / Collection of good practice on sustainable transport solutions

Mark Skilling presented an online survey about good practice on sustainable transport solutions to be conducted among NSC members on to 31 October. The survey is intended to cover good practice examples within all modes and forms of transport. The deadline for input has been set to 31 October where after Aberdeenshire will compile the examples on the web site.

See link to the online survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/NSCgoodpractice>

Decision & follow-up:

- Group members are expected to contribute to the online survey
- Mark Skilling reports to the Adviser about the response rate after the 31 October, and additional reminders to the NSC membership with extended deadline will be considered if the response rate turns out to be low, and/or the quality of the submissions is not satisfactory
- Mark Skilling reports back to the group when the good practice examples have been collected, compiled and analysed
- The next group meeting should discuss and decide on how to best make use of the good practice data base, also in support of the NSR 2020 initiative.

3.5 Statistical mapping of key developments in the transport sector

Erik Ørskov elaborated on how the statistical mapping task could support the NSC NSR 2020 initiative, including:

- Accessibility maps (ESPON) displaying average travelling times between NSC member regions and the core of Europe. Such maps should differentiate between passenger and freight as the accessibility of places could vary between different forms of transport
- Mapping of main transport flows to define the most important corridors in the NSR



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- Indication of catchment area of hubs – drawing on the analysis to be performed on the TEN-T (see item 3.1)

Decision & follow-up:

- The meeting agreed to the proposed options for how the statistical mapping task could be supporting the 2020 initiative
- Erik Ørskov notifies the Adviser if additional resources from the group are needed to perform the proposed options above
- Erik keeps the group regularly updated on the progress of this task
- The results of this task are submitted to the NSC Secretariat and 2020 ad hoc-groups, and could possibly be presented at future 2020 stakeholder events (see also item 4 below)

4. General NSC issues

- Agenda for Executive meeting on 29 September
- North Sea Region 2020 – NSC initiative for North Sea “strategy”

The meeting went through the agenda for the Executive and the thematic seminar on the NSR 2020 initiative on 29 September. The meeting also discussed a letter from the NSC Innovation & Education, Culture and Tourism and Sustainable Development groups on the 2020 initiative.

Decision & follow-up:

- The Chair informs about the main results of this meeting in his report to the Executive on 29 September
- The group is willing to contribute to the NSC stakeholder conference on the 2020 initiative scheduled for March 2011 in the Province of Zeeland (NL). The group believes that the themes for this conference should clearly correspond with the main priorities of the 2020 initiative as confirmed by the NSC Annual Business Meeting in June.

5. Next meetings

Decision & follow-up:

- 17 February 2011 in Groningen, arrival and dinner on the 16th.
- 22 June in Bruges (from morning) in conjunction with the Joint Annual Conference & General Assembly

NORTH SEA



COMMISSION

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6. Any other business

No issues were reported.