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Meeting of Executive Committee 30 Nov – 1 Dec 2009,

Progress report of NSC Transport group, June 2009 - November 2009

Please find below an account of the main activities of the NSC Transport group in the period since the last Executive meeting on 26 June 2009.

Input to the development of a North Sea Strategy

The Adviser helped the Secretariat with drafting the Terms of Reference for the NSC strategy development process. He has also provided some transport-related input to the draft strategy paper.

Further contribution to TEN-T review

The Transport group provided further input to the CPMR Intercom group on the TEN-T review in September – as part of the preparation for the meeting of the TEN-T group on 30 September (see separate paragraph below)

NSC priority themes and concepts for the TEN-T review

- Territorial cohesion and polycentric development
- Consistency with Lisbon and Gothenburg agenda & other EU policies
- Framework conditions for maritime transport
- Inclusion of maritime borders
- Facilitation of Modal shift in favour of sustainable transport modes
- Interoperability across borders and modes
- Eliminating bottlenecks in entire logistics chain,
- Alternative fuels and Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)
- The current TEN-T priority projects should be completed before new ones are added
- Consistent approach to project assessment
- Prolonged timeframe for planning and funding

Geographical priorities in terms of axes, corridors, Motorways of the Sea

As a main rule, the Transport group believes it's premature to present a firm priority list of specific geographical corridors and axes at this stage. We will therefore confine ourselves to list some more general principles on which the definition of the "geographical dimension" of the future TEN-T could be based

- Integrate periphery in future core & priority networks
- Open up the TEN-T towards third countries
- Implement current TEN-T priority projects in the NSR, and include these projects in future priority networks
- Strengthen integration of current MoS corridors, e.g Western Europe (incl North Sea), Baltic and Mediterranean



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Meeting of the CPMR group on the TEN-T review, Gothenburg, 30 September

Three members of the NSC Transport group attended the above meeting together with representatives of the CPMR Secretariat and other Geographical Commissions. The meeting gave an update on the TEN-T review process. 300 replies were submitted to the open consultation on the TEN-T Green Paper, of which over 50 from regional authorities. The CPMR response is explicitly mentioned in the summary report from the Commission. One of the main legislative proposals planned as a follow up of the Green Paper is a revision of the Community Guidelines on TEN-T, foreseen for end of 2010. The CPMR will try to be represented in one of the expert groups to be established by the Commission on the TEN-T review. The CPMR group will furthermore explore the option of organising a meeting back to back with a TEN-T stakeholder conference in Zaragoza on 18 March under the Spanish EU Presidency.

Finally, the NSC delegation presented priority themes and concepts, as well as geographical priorities in accordance with the paragraph above.

Ordinary meeting of the NSC Transport group, Gothenburg 30 September

The agenda comprised the ordinary items on the Work Plan. As for the European Transport agenda (apart from the TEN-T review), the group decided to explore the EU Urban Transport Action Plan which had just been published the day before the meeting. The group furthermore decided to shadow a recently approved project under the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme – Care North – on carbon responsible strategies as this project could be a relevant resource for the activities on urban transport and energy issues. The group will also develop a database on energy-efficient transport solutions and NSC member regions will be encouraged to submit good practice examples as soon as the database is operational. Finally, the group will continue the task of compiling updated statistics with a view of publishing a new report on major trends in modal split to the Executive meeting in the Spring of 2010.

Common session with the BSC Transport group, Gothenburg 30 September

Meeting at the same time & place in conjunction with the CPMR General Assembly, the two groups took the opportunity to organise a common session. This session was concerned with the TEN-T review and the concept of “Green Transport Corridors”.

It was agreed that the two groups have certain common interests related to the TEN-T review and other EU transport policy issues and should continue to mutually attend meetings and exchange information on policy positions. There are also synergies to be exploited between transport projects under the Baltic Sea Region and North Sea Region Programmes – facilitated by the fact that NSC members are partners to projects in both programmes.

Kristiansand, 10 November 2009

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